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Concluding OAS Assembly Activity Reported

Madrigal's Reactivation Plan

PA2011165088 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] To reactivate the Central American peace process, Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto submitted a proposal for the simultaneous verification and control of Honduran borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua, withdrawal of Nicaragua's lawsuit against Honduras at The Hague, and resumption of dialogue between the contras and the Sandinists.

The Costa Rican Foreign Affairs minister yesterday addressed the OAS General Assembly and stated that verification and control of Honduras' borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua would be carried out by the FRG, Spain, Canada, and a member of the Group of Eight, under the auspices of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Under the Costa Rican proposal, Nicaragua would reserve the right to bring suit again at the International Court of Justice at The Hague if the proposed alternative were not successful.

Regarding the resumption of the Sapoa talks, Cardinal Obando y Bravo and OAS General Secretary Joao Clemente Baena Soares would continue lending their support to these discussions.

As justification of the new impetus given by Costa Rica to efforts to bring peace to the region, Madrigal quoted a recent speech by President Oscar Arias, who said that "There are those who proclaim themselves to be champions of democracy and peace, yet they do nothing to turn their rhetoric into tangible reality."

Madrigal's formula contains an old thesis of his regarding the participation of Canada, Spain, and the FRG for overcoming the Honduran-Nicaraguan dispute over the presence of rebels on the border between both countries. Now, watching over the Honduran-Salvadoran border has been added to the formula.

The resumption of the Sapoa talks is intended to get the Nicaraguans to make concrete commitments and take certain actions necessary for effective compliance with the democratic postulates expressed at Esquipulas.

Concerning the Costa Rican formula, Nicaraguan Resistance spokesman Bosco Matamoros referred to the presence of observers at the border areas as a short-term proposal which does not respond to the main purpose of Esquipulas, which is democratization. According to him, the presence of observers would be "an illusion without any guarantee."

On being asked about the withdrawal of the lawsuit at The Hague, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco pointed out it would be a "real possibility" after the contras stop using Honduran territory.

In his speech, Madrigal Nieto was also persistent in calling for a profound redefinition of relations between the United States and Latin America. He stressed that cooperation between Americans and Latin Americans should be closer and that coexistence among both parties should be regarded as a "useful" geopolitical reality.

While addressing the OAS delegates, the Costa Rican Foreign Affairs minister reiterated his personal views and formulas regarding the foreign debt, as stated at the UN General Assembly and before the Group of 77, which seek to obtain additional funds to stimulate investments in Third World countries.

Tunnermann Address

PA1911000388 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Nov 88

["Excerpts" of speech by Carlos Tunnermann, Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, at the OAS General Assembly at the Sheraton Hotel in San Salvador on 16 November—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...344 are soldiers and civilians. Likewise, the number of kidnapped people is 7,408. In addition, the U.S. Congress, since the signing of the Sapoa agreement, has approved several packages—euphemistically known as humanitarian aid—that were sent to the insurgents in open violation of the Esquipulas and Sapoa agreements. Point 5 of the Esquipulas agreements specifies that humanitarian aid will be used for the repatriation of refugees or the relocation of former contras, as well as providing necessary assistance for their return to normal life. This humanitarian aid is completely different from the logistical and military support given by the current U.S. Government to the forces who insist on armed struggle and refuse to lay down their weapons. Any country that lends itself to facilitating the supply of this aid is in fact helping the war effort and is flagrantly violating the Esquipulas agreements. This firm position by Nicaragua led to an increasing awareness by those members who may have originally ignored the seriousness of the precedent that was about to be set. This situation led the OAS Permanent Council to approve Resolution 507 on 19 August 1988, which requests the Inter-American Juridical Committee to conduct a study of the privileges and immunities of the people mentioned in Article 140 of the OAS Charter. Subsequently, the OAS Permanent Council decided to include in this assembly's agenda a specific point, No 16, so that this General Assembly could examine the referent topic regarding the negotiation of a host country agreement, with the rank of treaty, between the OAS and the U.S. Government. Nicaragua is pleased to see that this process occurred when we decided not to passively accept the illegal U.S.Government decision to expel from its

territory our OAS ambassador and to protest in the most forceful manner the State Department's implementation of Article 3 of the 1975 agreement. Our position has been backed by the report released by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which pointed out that such an agreement is not in itself incompatible with Articles 68, 138, and 140 of the charter, but which—I quote—is far from being satisfactory, and this situation could imply a violation of the charter if the host country incurs—I quote from the report—what the French administrative doctrine has called a deviation of power, which consists of carrying out a function in strict compliance with the law, but with a purpose that is different from the one for which the function was created. End of quote. The Inter-American Juridical Committee states that an example of this would be the expulsion of an official as an act of reprisal in the relations between the host country and the accredited nation. As you can recall, these were precisely the circumstances that led to the expulsion of the Nicaraguan OAS ambassador by the U.S. Government. The ambassador was evidently forced to leave the United States because of a bilateral reprisal against Nicaragua. Nicaragua believes that in this case it has fulfilled its duties and responsibilities with the OAS. We defended the OAS' independence, and we contributed toward generating a process of legitimate concern among the member countries regarding the urgent need to overcome the host country's resistance to conduct serious negotiations regarding the framing of a legal host country statute that fully guarantees the OAS' independence and the immunities and privileges the personnel should have for the proper exercise of their duties. Mr President, the government of Nicaragua—a country where the consumption and trafficking of drugs is not a social problem because only a few cases are reported—fully supports the duties performed by the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse, and it is pleased to see that the number of member states in the commission is rising because this is a problem that adversely affects us all to a greater or lesser extent.

In this regard, we support reforming the current commission regulations so that all countries that wish to join may do so. We believe the increased participation in the [word indistinct] will contribute to the strengthening of the role played by the OAS in fighting a problem as great as the illegal consumption, production, and trafficking of drugs in the Americas. The Nicaraguan delegation supports the recommendation made by the [word indistinct] in its report, and believes that this General Assembly, with the same spirit that prevailed in the Guatemala assembly, should reiterate the importance the OAS gives to the war against drug trafficking by reaffirming the need to form a solid alliance to fight this crime against humanity. However, we believe that the alliance of the Americas against drug trafficking proclaimed in Guatemala should not lead to actions that can serve as pretexts for interventionist activities. Mr President, in the area of human rights, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, in its 1988 annual report, Chapter 4, regarding the human rights situation in Nicaragua, recognizes that my government has a pluralistic and open door policy of cooperation with the commission. Likewise, it recognizes that the state of emergency was lifted, despite the fact that the circumstances which made it necessary have not changed. In addition, the right of habeas corpus was fully restored, and the commission has recognized that the abolishment of the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals is a positive measure. The commission pointed out that we have granted amnesty and pardons as a result of the Esquipulas II and Sapoa agreements. Mr President, peace in Central America remains the highest priority on the Latin American agenda. The failure of U.S. policy in the region, the high cost of thousands of human lives, and the world consensus regarding a peaceful solution should make the new U.S. leaders consider this situation. We should encourage them to begin a new era of relations with the region. It is no longer possible for the United States to continue to disregard the great problems of Latin America and to continue to act according to its own ambitions. The road to peace has been laid out. The threat of force and strength should be proscribed forever; interventionism should cease; the concepts of areas of influence or strategic reserves should be eliminated; and respect for international law should be strengthened, which means complying with the historic ruling of the International Court of Justice at The Hague on 27 June 1986 and compensating Nicaragua. Reason should prevail over force and dialogue should prevail over pressure and impositions. We call on the United States to follow this path because if they do, it would give new meaning to inter-American relations. Thank you very much.

U.S. Attitude Criticized

PA1911152288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] With the absence of the U.S. delegation, which suddenly left the hall and did not vote, the OAS decided to continue its discussions with the U.S. Government until an agreement that will guarantee respect for the privileges and immunity of all ambassadors representing OAS member states is signed. The resolution was approved following a diplomatic debate between Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Tunnermann and U.S. Ambassador Richard McCormack. Everyone is aware that the U.S. Government expelled Tunnermann in July when the Sandinist regime ordered the removal of the U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua after accusing him of having an interventionist attitude and meddling in Nicaraguan domestic affairs. The Nicaraguan official again accused the United States of being abusive and arbitrary and added that the expelling of an OAS official, who has immunity and privileges, is proof of Washington's disregard for the OAS.

[Begin Tunnermann recording] I cannot understand how, after years of having its headquarters in Washington, the OAS does not have a clearly defined agreement, like the one the United Nations has, with the United States. The UN agreement covers the possibility of a controversy between the host country and a state, and establishes procedures to solve the problem. I was the

Nicaraguan ambassador to the OAS, yet the United States was able to expel me without reason or cause because such an agreement does not exist between the OAS and the United States.

The United States says I was expelled because I abused my residency privileges—a term no one understands—but this was an excuse to ask me to leave the United States. In doing so, the United States has stopped the representative of a member state, with every right to attend the meetings of the council in Washington, from attending these meetings. [end recording]

Tunnermann criticized the fact that the United States was absent during the discussion, and added that this attitude proves that the United States does not want to sign an agreement that will ensure the independent and adequate operation of the OAS. According to Tunnermann, the United States is planning to continue its hegemonic plan within this intercontinental organization.

The OAS headquarters was established in Washington in 1890 and, to date, no [host-country] treaty has been signed. As far as the Nicaraguan official is concerned, the fact that there is no agreement is strange, especially when newer organizations headquartered in Washington have already signed such an agreement.

Tinoco on Peace Proposals

PA1811135588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1256 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has said Nicaragua hopes the next meeting of Central American foreign ministers "will eliminate the confusion and contradictions" which prevent the reactivation of the Esquipulas II peace plan.

The five Central American foreign ministers will meet in Mexico on 29-30 November to prepare the agenda and discuss the date of the next Central American presidential summit, which has been postponed on several occasions.

Tinoco said they will also discuss "the reactivation of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS)," which was requested by the Nicaraguan Government.

Tinoco, who is attending the 18th OAS General Assembly, told ACAN-EFE the foreign ministers' meeting is important because "it will help clear the confusion created by the various proposals aiming to reactivate the Esquipulas peace plan," which was signed in August 1987.

"There is much confusion," Tinoco said in commenting on the verification proposals presented to the OAS by the governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica.

Nicaragua supports the reactivation of a verification commission such as the one was initially created by the Esquipulas Agreements and was comprised of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela), the Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay), the five Central American foreign ministers, and the OAS and UN secretaries general.

According to Tinoco, the foreign ministers will also discuss the verification and border control proposals presented by Honduras to the United Nations and the OAS, as well as the Costa Rican initiative presented in this General Assembly.

Tinoco said that "so far, one does not know if these proposals are aimed at watching over the borders or at verifying the Esquipulas II commitments."

Tinoco reiterated "The real obstacle" to holding the Central American presidential summit is "some of the region's countries are waiting to see how things stand in the United States under the new Bush administration."

According to Tinoco, progress has been made in solving the problem of the "aggression against Nicaragua," but "there is no solution to the problem of the internal war here in El Salvador, and this will also have to be addressed."

U.S. Policy Changes Urged

PA1511155988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said today at the San Salvador Sheraton that the United States must change its Central American policy and abandon the big stick policy and violence. Tinoco said the Central American situation might improve if the new U.S. Administration has a more realistic interpretation of the regional conflict. Such an interpretation, he added, would make the United States realize the Central American problem cannot be solved through violence.

[Begin recording] [Tinoco] The situation might improve, because if the new U.S. Administration looks at the situation in a more realistic and pragmatic way, it will realize the Central American situation cannot be solved with a big stick policy or with bullets, warships, and warplanes. The new U.S. Administration will realize it has to seek negotiations and understand our people.

[Reporter] A few years ago it was being said the problem with the OAS was that it was so heavily influenced by the United States, but now the OAS is changing. It is also said that this meeting will help continue this evolution.

[Tinoco] Yes, the Cartagena Agreement gave the organization additional political force. It is giving the organization its own independent character. The OAS is no longer a tool of the United States as it was 10 or 15 years ago, and is acting on its own.

[Reporter] Could there be a change in U.S. Central American policy under the new U.S. President?

[Tinoco] We hope so. The Nicaraguan Government continues to support the peace process and negotiations. We hope the United States will respond in kind.

[Reporter] Does the Nicaraguan Government support a new Central American presidential summit?

[Tinoco] Of course. [end recording]

Tinoco said right now there is a transition period in the United States and it is not possible to predict the new U.S. Administration's Central American policy. Therefore, he added, everyone will have to wait.

Cabrera Delivers Speech

PA1811161488 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Speech by Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera at the 18th OAS General Assembly session in San Salvador on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] I am honored to express to Your Excellency Salvadoran Foreign Minister Acevedo, the president of this session, a very special greeting from the Panamanian Government and people to the neighboring Salvadoran Government and people. I must also express my delegation's gratitude for the attention and consideration we have received from the Salvadoran authorities, which have heightened our sincere desire to contribute to the successful completion of the work under way at this 18th assembly.

I must take advantage of this opportunity to express—speaking for myself and on behalf of the delegation I am heading—our most sincere congratulations to you, Mr President, for your election to head our work here, and to Ambassador Joao Clemente Baena Soares for his reelection as secretary general of this organization. Your reelection, Ambassador Baena Soares, is justified recognition of your political ability, diplomatic experience, leadership, and well-known interpersonal (?skills).

The OAS' 40th anniversary has coincided with a number of reforms aimed at making the OAS administration increasingly modern and effective. Before we left Panama the constitutional process of approving reforms to the OAS Charter was discussed at the National Assembly, and ratification of this process will soon be formalized.

The OAS' 40th anniversary gives us an opportunity to reiterate our full acknowledgement of the organization. In addition to allowing us to discuss the goals the organization's founders established, this meeting has allowed us to discuss the tangible actions carried out as a result of the devotion and efforts of many statesmen, diplomats, and members of the staff that for 4 decades has offered the OAS its best talents and capabilities.

We cannot begin a new calendar year without first warmly acknowledging the permanent bodies set up by the organization. Other reflections, nevertheless, are in order, although they are not as pleasant or flattering to discuss. I cannot avoid discussing the very serious duties that, as Latin Americans, we are all faced with.

When the OAS was created, its formal charter coincided with an unprecedented outbreak of violence. The assembly's very headquarters was shaken by (?activities) to which America was not accustomed.

The fact that our nations made an effort to create a coalition to fulfill their hopes at a time of grief and destruction gave us the hope that there was still time and a timely step had been taken which would protect our continent from the barbarism and desolation of World War II.

The ideals of democracy, prosperity, peace, and respect for human rights and the dignity of nations, as stated in the OAS Charter, did not reflect a continental reality but a hope. They reflected the hopes of the continent's best leaders and constituted an order from humanity against which there could be no opposition and which forced the silence of those who could have expressed opposition. The fact that 40 years later we cannot look at a map of America without seeing the tragic shadow of fratricidal conflicts everywhere must not be looked upon as an evil of our time, as an inevitable dichotomy in our societies, or as a sudden polarization caused by unknown factors that were not our fault.

Very well-defined trends of discord and hatred have begun to emerge, not as distant possibilities but as specters that surround us.

Some days ago, the IDB president quoted from documents that—the OAS must acknowledge—have decisively crushed many of the fantasies we may have entertained until now. To say, as IDB President Enrique Iglesias said, that the current decade is a lost one for Latin America, is not only a warning against our inactivity and the postponement of Latin American integration. It is also a dispassionate perception of the magnitude of the tasks we face. We must understand it is not possible to continue this way without inviting unimaginable social chaos whose first symptoms would be felt in this decade throughout America.

Most OAS member states are currently faced with the same problems, which are of such a magnitude that none of the states by themselves can hope to solve them or even make them more manageable. These problems are such that no single state can prevent their damaging effects on democratic institutions or on the full integrity of national sovereignty.

Our resources are being drained by the servicing of the foreign debt, and there has been a shift in international relations from a game in which tricks are played on us to one in which we are offered a truce. Those who have the

strength to end these games are not doing so. Instead, they are using a strategy of changing our nations' realities through propaganda and cultural penetration. This, fellow ministers and delegates, is an excessive burden that no Central American or Caribbean state alone can bear without feeling an affect on all of its resources and straining society's resistance.

It would be advantageous, therefore, if in addition to discussing the topics we have proposed, we could dedicate a few moments of thought to this organization's future and to the inequalities that allow some member states to have greater influence than others in decisions affecting all of us. To use a term that is currently in vogue and has so often been used in reference to the hopes and rights that many of us will, perhaps, share during the organization's 5th decade, we want the right not only to the democratization of any given country, but to the democratization of the OAS itself.

Although over the past 40 years ECLA and IDB statistics have failed to report on the number of people killed or wounded in domestic conflicts and on the somber and surprising events of the past decade, we have been encouraged to question economic growth models and guidelines for political and social development that do not appear to reflect the needs of the poor but the interests of the wealthy.

Panama, therefore, has supported the discussion of the clandestine trafficking of weapons and drug trafficking. We insist, however, that it is not necessary to discuss the more colorful external aspects of these problems but to adopt positions aimed at getting to the root of the problems and eradicating them. Drug trafficking in particular forces us to implement joint, in-depth structural action because the moral decline it has caused has even undermined some states' political framework. Using various elements that comprise the drug problem to achieve temporary political objectives will not lead to a comprehensive, decisive solution. The Panamanian Government's efforts in the struggle against drugs is stated not only in official documents from other nations and international organizations but in figures: 1,425,658 kg of drugs were seized in 1987; 1,079,598 kg were seized during the 1st 9 months of 1988.

As public officials with outstanding records, the ministers gathered here are well aware of the amount of government funds and human energy that must be spent to carry out a task of this magnitude. Yet, despite the terrible hardship Panama has endured, there has been no easing in our fight against drug trafficking. This allows us to point out the responsibility of other countries. Other countries provide the funds to set up the clandestine organizations engaged in this dirty business, as well as the enormous amount of funds set aside for bribes, the purchase of modern and sophisticated equipment, and the establishment of private armies at the service of international crime.

Drugs and drug trafficking are not a problem for Panama, except insofar as both have been used in a campaign of destabilization and [words indistinct] to hide other intentions behind a smokescreen.

Mr President, Panama's statements at the 18th OAS General Assembly contained a detailed account of the moral aggression we have been suffering through a campaign of slander and lies unparalleled in history. At the time, we denounced the use of the most refined methods and resources in the psychological war to overthrow the Panamanian Government and replace it with a de facto regime. This regime would have been a most despicable subjugation of the Panamanian people and a permanent and substantial diminishment of Panamanian independence and sovereignty.

Likewise, we denounced the start of an economic aggression and the continuing and frightening scenario of armed aggression from the military installations in Panamanian territory by virtue of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The treaties established a purely defensive role for these bases in the protection of the Panama Canal and prohibited all interference in Panama's internal affairs.

The perplexity and surprise that such serious accusations might cause to the delegates gathered here, together with the merciless succession of abuses suffered by the Panamanian nation, should by now have provided an alarming view of events whose repercussions can be felt in other countries and have a bearing on the future of their national sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the denunciation made at the UN General Assembly by the Panamanian head of state on 27 September provided an account of events that are acts of aggression by a member state of this organization against another member state. These events are the first manifestation of a strategy for continental domination under which Panama, as the spearhead for expansion, would become a territory under foreign guardianship, with a government to which the U.S. Embassy delegated that guardianship.

I have not come here today to repeat in detail these denunciations and charges, which, nonetheless, my government maintains and reiterates. In the first place, Your Excellencies are well aware of the events and their origins. Through your diplomatic representatives in Panama, you are also aware of the magnitude of the losses caused by acts of unbridled arrogance that are alien to all forms of respe[illegible] for international law and even to humanity itself.

If the Panamanian Government's free health care centers for newborn infants and children today see four times as many cases per day than 2 years ago, then this is only one of many disturbing statistics about the price paid by the Panamanian people in resisting and in persisting in their struggle for national liberation.

I have not come here today to repeat [words indistinct] in this room to give you a clear picture of life in Panama during the past 17 months, because you know the truth. You know the truth despite the charges made up by those who prefer ambiguity as a substitute for honesty, sincerity, and good faith in international relations.

Panama has a long history of achievement because of its commitment to peace and has given undeniable proof of its unflinching support for the peaceful solution of disputes and for rational, realistic, and quiet negotiation to resolve international conflicts. Although, thanks to common sense and reason, we have been fortunate not to have had armed clashes, the Panamanian situation is nothing, but a conflict between two member states of this organization. Therefore, without even slightly diminishing the determination of both the Panamanian people and the constitutional government presided over by Manuel Solis Palma, I express our hope that the next U.S. President leads that country's policy down the path of a just and prompt correction. With God's help, the fruits of a policy that has brought only death, destruction, and ruin to the continent's weakest nations might be made more visible and compelling by the enthusiasm and constructive approach of a different government.

This venue is of immense importance, not only for the statements by other member states on foreign policy toward Panama, but also for the clear and tangible expression of that policy in the form of effective and real solidarity in the defense of member states' rights, as contained in the OAS Charter. As long as our countries are unable to exercise their right to decide what constitutes a threat to their security, as well as their right to define the limits of that threat, we will be denied the right to decide for ourselves the conditions of peaceful and harmonious coexistence among our peoples. As long as the movement toward Latin American integration, borne of the urgent need to jointly defend our interests and promote our aspirations, must submit to one state's unilateral endorsement of a regime, our strength will continue to dissipate. It is this centuries-old cause of chronically wasted options and opportunity that will continue to be our yoke, either through naivete, stubbornness, or cowardice. It will also maintain the inequities of neocolonialism, which we oppose only through an occasional outburst of rhetoric, without ever taking the political action we could take if we are united.

The situation in Central America has been the object of attention of all the general assemblies and a majority of OAS bodies throughout this decade. However, neither the efforts of this organization nor those of the Contadora Group and its support group have managed to remove the conflict from a context of hegemonic designs that not only corrodes the regional desire for peace, but also generates similar dangerous situations in other places, among which, I am sad to say, is Panama.

On this solemn occasion, Mr President, I must point out the error of attempting a de facto annexation of Panama as the first link of a new chain of subjugation of America. In fact, Panama will be an indigestible mouthful; the most eloquent and factual proof of this assertion can be found in this region's situation. On the contrary, if we take new roads toward reaching an understanding—always available to those who want reason to prevail over irrational childishness—by the time of our next General Assembly we will be able to talk of a Latin America that is not subject to all kinds of dangers and threats from all places. If the states with an unlimited ability to bring about our annihilation have discovered that there is greater danger in seeing each other merely as a threat, then it is our turn in Latin America and the Caribbean to show that there is a point when the dignity and the independence of a nation can survive without representing a threat to other nations. But that demonstration will only materialize with behavior worthy of free and independent nations.

Mr President, Panama is prepared to hold general elections on 7 May 1989 to continue perfecting our institutional democracy, based on purely Panamanian solutions, without interference from a foreign country. On 7 November, the Electoral Tribunal opened the period of candidate registration for different elected public offices. There is an amended electoral law that was debated by different political groups and approved by the Legislative Assembly. This legal instrument gives full guarantees to all political sectors that prefer the electoral route as a civilized means of settling political differences. My government continues down the institutional path established by the national Constitution, and Panamanian democracy continues its march. The Panamanian Government is determined to carry out unalterably its duty under the Constitution.

We know some countries in our hemisphere are closely watching the development of political events in my country. In all cases, this interest must be separated from any attempt to interfere in Panama's internal affairs. Historically, the Panamanian people have repudiated foreign intervention. My government does not accept intervention under any pretext. No economic sanctions will weaken our unbreakable resolve. If democracy is the highest ideal of any civilized nation, then the people's right to self-determination is the biggest asset of the weakest and smallest nations. For a country like mine, especially in this hemisphere, democracy and self-determination are inseparable.

Mr President, I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to Your Excellency for the special attention given us during our brief stay in this country. I wish also to thank the General Secretariat for the efficient organization of this event. More importantly, I wish to express our heartfelt hopes for the recovery of his excellency, President Duarte, whose stoicism and integrity in the face of pain I admire. Thank you very much.

Cartagena Accord Ratified

PA1811130088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Mauricio Funez report]

[Excerpts] The OAS plenary session approved this morning the protocol of reforms to the organization's charter, which is known as the Cartagena Agreement. The protocol makes substantial reforms to the OAS Charter and was approved in Cartagena, Colombia, on December 1985. The protocol was ratified by Bolivia, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, thus completing the required two-thirds majority of the member states needed for its implementation.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares stated that the protocol turns the intercontinental forum into a decisive instrument for political dialogue in the continent. [passage omitted]

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo, who is acting as president of this OAS session, pointed out that once the protocol goes into effect, the OAS will be modernizing and adjusting its structure and actions in accordance with the new realities in the continent. He also warned that the added responsibilities created by the Cartagena Agreement will make it necessary for the member states to pay their quotas so that the OAS can continue to operate.

Drug Trafficking Condemned

PA1811152788 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador—The most important resolutions of the OAS General Assembly session point out the need for controlling arms trafficking, urge the Central American presidents to meet and reactivate Esquipulas II, and call for more cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking. The 18th OAS General Assembly has been meeting in San Salvador for the past 4 days.

The assembly also approved a resolution implicitly condemning human rights violations in Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Cuba, Paraguay, Suriname, and other countries that are not mentioned by name in the document, but about which human rights reports were filed and examined by the assembly.

The OAS congratulated the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for the work it has carried out. The commission has been criticized by countries about which it has filed reports. The assembly said it is urgent that all countries establish democracy through free elections.

Another resolution was approved by consensus. It condemns the illegal trafficking of arms, which is increasingly promoting subversion, terrorism, and violence in the countries of this hemisphere. The assembly's resolution urges the states to impede the illegal traffic of arms and tasked the OAS Permanent Council with searching for ways to prevent arms trafficking.

The Contadora Group comprised of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama—whose membership has been suspended [as heard]—and the Support Group countries—Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Uruguay—presented the draft resolution on the immediate threat that the illegal trafficking of arms represents.

The OAS General Assembly stated its firm support for the Esquipulas peace agreement and urged the presidents of the five Central American countries to meet and make a new push toward compliance with the agreement.

The assembly also urged the United States and the Soviet Union to avoid actions that could obstruct the search for peace in Central America.

The resolution was approved after OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and the Contadora and Support Groups reported on their efforts to establish a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

The Contadora and Support Groups have reiterated their concern over the stagnation of the Esquipulas II process and noted the need for finding a verification mechanism capable of "objectively" supervising the peace agreement signed in August 1987 by the five Central American countries.

Final Resolution Issued

PA2011014088 Paris AFP in Spanish 2108 GMT 19 Nov 88

[By Enrique Guzman de Acevedo, special AFP correspondent]

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (AFP)—The OAS General Assembly today in a final resolution expressed its desire for a peaceful solution to the war in El Salvador, while the Salvadoran Army announced 43 casualties this week, including rebels and soldiers, during the guerrillas' announced "truce" during the OAS session. Nicaragua's representative was absent when the the final resolution was approved by the assembly.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo delivered the closing speech, denouncing terrorism and stressing the power of the "new and invigorated OAS."

Salvadoran military sources reported today that at the end of the truce there were "guerrilla incursions" in five townships, but no civilian casualties were reported.

The OAS resolution came a few hours after the end (at 1800 on Friday) of the 5-day truce agreed to by the FMLN on the occasion of the inter-American meeting. The Army, however, did not agree to the truce and kept its offensive operations strategy unchanged.

There were no reports of clashes in the capital during the OAS General Assembly sessions.

The authorities accused the FMLN of violating the truce, but the guerrilla group issued a communique stating it respected the truce, but would increase its harassment operations when the truce ended.

A power outage at midnight that left sectors of the Salvadoran capital in the dark signaled the end of the truce, causing concern among many members of the foreign delegations participating in the meetings, who had virtually "invaded" the international restaurants of the so-called "Zona Rosa."

Foreign newsmen in the zone made emergency runs through diverse parts of the city, fearing a confrontation or attack, but only found heavily armed military patrols and armored vehicles.

By dawn everything was calm and the military patrols were changing "guard" with a traditional "nothing to report, but be alert..."

A taxi driver told AFP the "outage was caused by the guerrillas, who downed electricity towers in the city." "They know how to do that very well. It was a message for the OAS ministers and ambassadors," he noted.

At 0915 (GMT) today a bomb destroyed the vehicle of an Interior Ministry official that was parked in front of a residence near the U.S. Embassy. The diplomats' uneasiness increased in the wake of the bombing as they awaited their departure from the city.

In the document approved with an ovation today, but in the absence of Nicaragua, whose ambassador, Carlos Tunnermann, left the room when it was approved, the OAS expressed its "admiration for the immense Salvadoran efforts" to build a democratic society "within a pluralistic framework and through peaceful means."

The OAS also decided to praise "the value and courage of (Salvadoran) President Jose Napoleon Duarte (suffering from terminal cancer) in personally directing the democratic process and carrying out the high duties of his civic post," the inter-American resolution noted.

In the resolution, the OAS stressed that the Salvadoran people "have provided proof repeatedly of their democratic desire for peace while rejecting violence and terror."

The Group of the Eight, which supported the resolution, did not justify its position, but Ecuador, Chile, and Paraguay supported lthe document in their respective speeches.

Duarte Praised

PA2011023288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1910 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 19 May (ACAN-EFE)—In its last day of sessions, the 18th OAS General Assembly praised and recognized "the value and courage" of Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte in "directing the democratic process" of this country.

At the time of the vote, Nicaraguan delegate Orlando Guerrero left the room, while the delegations of the Group of Eight (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil—Panama is suspended because of its domestic problems) remained silent without directly supporting the proposal.

The resolution, proposed by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic, was supported by most of the countries of the American continent, including Chile and Paraguay, mentioned together with El Salvador as having a "negative balance" in terms of human rights issues.

On opening the 18th OAS General Assembly sessions on Monday, President Duarte harshly criticized the Salvadoran guerrillas and their delegation and accused "a neighboring country" (Nicaragua) of being a corridor for sending weapons to the insurgent groups.

Mauricio Granillo, permanent Salvadoran ambassador to the OAS, told ACAN-EFE that Nicaragua lends its territory for transporting weapons to Salvadoran guerrillas from countries such as Cuba, Libya, and the Soviet Union.

The Salvadoran delegation, in a draft resolution that was not approved, wanted the OAS General Assembly to condemn terrorism and, having the guerrillas of this country as a backdrop, wanted to outlaw the organizations that seek to attain power through armed struggle.

C.A. Summit in Question

PA1911232888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said today that if Nicaragua does not withdraw its charges against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague, it will be very difficult to hold the scheduled Central American presidential summit.

The Salvadoran foreign minister's statement cast the first doubts on the Central American presidential summit. The sudden announcement of a preparatory ministerial meeting to be held late this month had led to the conclusion that all obstacles had been overcome. The picture changed today, however, after Nicaragua announced that it will not withdraw the charges it has presented before the ICJ. Nicaragua has accused Tegucigalpa of allowing the contras

to use Honduras to attack the Sandinist regime. Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta said that very little can be done if Nicaragua does not withdraw its charges since this attitude only serves to further complicate the efforts for a diplomatic negotiation in the region.

[Begin Acevedo recording] We must suggest positive things for the presidents to discuss. We should suggest things that would truly promote the process of negotiation which has currently reached a standstill. We should not give the presidents problems to solve. I think this type of problem should be solved by the foreign ministers, who will be meeting in Mexico on 30 November. This is my own opinion.

I do not think Nicaragua's decision helps the situation. Nicaragua had already promised to withdraw its charges. Now it has backed out, and I do not consider this to be a constructive stance. As you have already said, this attitude does not promote dialogue and negotiation. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta said that Honduras' decision to refrain from attending regional meetings as long as Nicaragua does not withdraw its charges is understandable. Acevedo Peralta is of the opinion that the Nicaraguan Government should give some sign of flexibility, withdraw its charges, and refrain from blocking the presidential summit.

Cuba

Progress Noted in Quadripartite Talks

PA2011031788 Havana International Service in Spanish 0122 GMT 20 Nov 88

["Viewpoint" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] After the recently concluded round of quadripartite negotiations in Geneva between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, with the United States as mediator, the upcoming meeting in Brazzaville appears to be the time to reach an agreement on resolving the conflict in southwest Africa. Characterized by the Cuban delegation chief Carlos Aldana as constructive, the negotiations in the Swiss city established important bases upon which to advance the negotiating process. An agreement in principle was reached regarding the timetable for the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces from Angola.

In the opinion of Cuban spokesman Alcibiades Hidalgo, managing to bring the views of the negotiators closer together on the matter and discussing the terms of the timetable with the South African and U.S. delegates constitutes one of the major contributions Angola and Cuba have made in this entire process. Although the details of the Geneva negotiations have not yet been disclosed, it is known that the withdrawal period will extend over a 2-year period. Although this term is not considered to be the best time frame for Cuba, the Cuban Government, in another sign of its flexibility and commitment to dialogue, approved the agreement reached in the ninth round. Even though it is not ideal, it does guarantee, by the terms and pace of the withdrawal, the internal security of Angola and the Cuban internationalist forces in that country, which are estimated to number about 50,000.

Observers who have followed these quadripartite talks feel that the situation was conducive for making South Africa come to an understanding. Everybody knows Pretoria came to the negotiating table as a result of major military failures inflicted on it by the Cuban and Angolan forces, the demands of the international community, and its own internal situation.

For that reason, seeking to improve Pieter Botha's deteriorated image, to end international isolation, and halt the economic drain its military policy in southwest Africa entails, Pretoria was forced to grant concessions. As a result of the ninth round of consultations, the bases were established for an agreement that will correspond with the principles approved in June in New York.

Carlos Aldana noted something important in the talks. He noted that the Cuban internationalist forces have not just contributed to ensure Angola's territorial integrity, but they have also contributed to Namibia's process of independence. In terms of assessing the value of their presence, this makes these forces doubly important.

The Geneva talks have practically opened the way for a peaceful solution in southwest Africa. This peaceful solution can be finalized at the 10th meeting in Brazzaville.

Second International Health Seminar Ends

Castro on Year 2000 Goal

FL1911023988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0006 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Report by Belquis Joglar from Havana's Palace of Conventions During "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres—live]

[Text] [Joglar] Good evening Cuba, good evening Daniel. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is, at this moment, closing the Second International Seminar on Primary Health Care in the Palace of Conventions. The meeting was attended by more than 1,000 delegates, of which over 400 specialists from 30 countries of different ideological beliefs, showed there admiration for the model Cuban family doctor program.

The eight health ministers that attended the last session agreed that the Cuban health system is excellent, basically because it is born from and is developed by the state's political will. This is something that looks very simple but is very hard for Latin American countries to do.

Our commander in chief, referring to the slogan "Health Care for Everyone in the Year 2000" said:

[Castro] It is a beautiful slogan and we shouldn't give it up. It becomes a weapon to fight with, an instrument to manifest the need to make an effort in this direction. It's an objective. This doesn't mean, necessarily, that we can achieve it, that all our goals for health care for everyone will be met by the year 2000. It's sad but true. If a number of countries could attain it, this slogan, this banner, this goal would be self-justified. I'm afraid that most countries, in spite of the efforts made by the WHO, UNICEF, and regional health organs, all those growing efforts, even the ones to develop technology and procedures that will help decrease, prevent, and even cure diseases... [changes thought] I think that in the time left between here and the year 2000, and by what has happened in the last 10 years, the goal of "Health Care for Everyone in the Year 2000" will not be reached. We will have to struggle to attain this by the year 2005 or the year 2010, or perhaps even by the 21st century [as heard].

I don't know, of course, how long the people can wait or how much they can take, because one way or another these situations must change! We can't sit around with our arms crossed. The people won't sit around with their arms crossed while they suffer and live the realities that they are tolerating, especially in a world that calls itself civilized.

Further Reportage on Closing

FL1911024488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today closed the Second International Seminar on Primary Health Care.

[Begin Castro recording] After listening to the discussions and, in addition, recalling the debate on the family doctor, as well as the news that we have read through the press, I see that there is truly very little left to say here in these closing remarks.

I sincerely believe that your conclusions expressed during the discussion are truly excellent. If it was not for the fear that you might accuse me of being a subversive, I would say that the conclusions are truly revolutionary because you are describing social programs and I don't know how else to describe them. We might call them socialist.

You will recall that the other day we spoke about the possibilities of attaining one of the indexes that our country has reached. When the UNICEF representative asked what could be done or if it could be done, I expressed the idea that, without a revolution, it is possible to lower the infant mortality rate during the first 5 years of life to 30 percent or less. Generally in statistics, one bases the index on those who die during the first year of life from each 1,000 live births or those who die between the ages of 1-4 or 1-5. I combined the two together because, of course, the number of deaths decreases a lot after the first year of life. Infants are more susceptible during their first year of life.

In making this calculation, I was thinking from a technical, scientific, medical point of view. If, under the present conditions, one wanted to ... [changes thought] I was thinking a little bit more about Latin America. We saw that the seminar is being attended by representatives from other countries, other continents, but we primarily are talking about Latin America. I said that infant mortality can be reduced in those age groups to an average of 30 percent without great expense, without great expense [repeats himself].

Earlier reductions required medicine that was truly much more expensive. I described it as a more sophisticated medicine. Of course, is it something that can be applied equally by all countries? I don't think so. This is an average estimate.

I understand that some countries have reduced infant mortality rate during the 1st year of life to less than 30 percent. I think that some may even be less than 25 percent. I don't know if Costa Rica is around 20 percent, a figure that is [words indistinct] of that type. There is poverty in Costa Rica [words indistinct] poverty in Costa Rica. I saw some documentaries presented here [words indistinct] on the social situation of many Costa Rican nuclear families that reflected a painful social situation in [words indistinct].

I refer to this because there may be some countries that might find it very difficult to attain this goal if they do not improve the nutritional situation of the population [words indistinct], the nutritional situation of the children. There are some countries in our hemisphere where 50 percent of the children suffer from malnutrition. There are some countries where 60 percent—and I've heard that, in some cases, it's 70 percent—of the children have nutritional problems. [end recording]

Concluding Remarks

FL1911163088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1412 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has closed the Second International Seminar on Primary Health Care. Before concluding the last session, [passage indistinct] Cuba's success in the field of health and in particular, in the family doctor program.

[Begin Castro recording] [Passage omitted] [Word indistinct] family doctor which we promoted. Not only do we need doctors who have graduated from the univerities, but we need doctors who have been trained with different ideas. If at the triumph of the revolution, there weren't doctors ready to go to the countryside and mountains, today we can say that our doctors are ready to go anywhere in the world, anywhere in the world [repeats himself], regardless of how difficult conditions are. We have over 1,000 doctors in approximately 30 Third World countries. They are in places as distant as Laos, Kampuchea, Vietnam, and some Pacific islands which don't even appear on the map. They are also in some African countries and regions. In our hemisphere, we also have cooperation principally [word indistinct] with Nicaragua.

Medicine has really progressed in our country. The other day I was talking about 60, or 40 [words indistinct] made a list of all the measures taken between 1980 and 1986, and there were approximately 60 measures taken when you add them up. [Passage indistinct] one of the 60 measures includes the family doctor, it also includes other measures that I mentioned the other day, and many others which would take to long to list. It also includes the introduction of diagnostic ultrasonography which was only used in [word indistinct] hospital. However, we quickly introduced it in all the hospitals after seeing how beneficial it is, the money it saved, and the services it rendered. Today we have 73 ultrasound machines, [word indistinct] axial tomography, extracorporial lithotomy, and (?nuclear) magnetic resonance, which are considered advanced technology. This is not (?done) on a great scale, or (?at) great expense, but [we want] to get to know it, to learn how it works, to do

research, to resolve cases which otherwise could not be resolved without those means. Today we are setting up a (?linear accelerator) which will be very useful for certain medical services. It will prevent interference by organisms and will allow the radiation to be concentrated where it needs to be. We are right behind the most modern technology, we want to learn about it. The equipment for the ultramicroanalytic system with great a capability for analysis through optical, biochemical, physical, and mechanical methods is an innovation by our country. . We have built two medical equipment factories which are very important because medical equipment is so expensive. If you built them in your own country, even if you have to import some components, you'll spend 50, 30, 25, or 20 percent of what the equipment costs. This is how we are helping ourselves with the industry for medical services. These are important steps, measures [pasage indistinct].

It truly pleases and encourages us that you have valued, maybe even more than us, the importance that institution holds. It is not that we underestimate it [shifts thought]. I am absolutely sure that this is the way, there is no other. Well, that is precisely what I was talking to you about. I was talking about the efforts we have made, of which you will have to be witnesses. As of today, we must prepare ourselves for the next seminar. What will we be able to tell you? What will you tell us? Will there have been changes? What perspectives will there be? So, let us support and help one another. If you want to use us, go ahead and use us. If you want to use Cuba for embarrassing a politician, go ahed and use Cuba. So much is said about Cuba, whether this is good or bad, [words indistinct] we don't do it here. If you want to use Cuba to emphasize national honor and pride, and the dignity of politicians, go ahead and use Cuba. And if we—by doing our job and carrying out our duty—not only serve our country, but also know that we can be useful to others, we will then be twice as satisfied, twice as happy. Thank you very much. Fatherland or death, we will win! [end recording]

Switchboard Installed for Official Calls Abroad

FL1811155588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] A rotary system switchboard, with numbers 70-94-91 trough 98, has been installed for official use by leadership organizations in the country to place calls abroad. Calls to the United States should continue to be placed, until further notice, by using numbers 79-75-51 through 59, which can also be used to place calls to other capitalist countries. It is expected that the ability to receive calls automatically from abroad will be restored during the course of the day. The Communications Ministry is asking that these facilities be used sensibly considering the existing limitations.

Restoration Slow

PA2011043688 Paris AFP in Spanish 0030 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Havana, 19 Nov (AFP)—Cuba's international communications are slowly being restored after a fire last Sunday damaged Havana's principal telephone exchange system.

Both domestic and international Telex communications are now being handled almost normally. Meanwhile, international telephone communications have only been partially restored, despite efforts by Cuban telecommunications workers, who are working 24 hours a day.

Some of the Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA's circuits are operating once again, as are communications for diplomatic and business entities in Havana. The circuits for the four Western press agency offices operating in Havana, however, have not yet been restored.

1989 Scientific Agreement Signed With Moscow

FL1911191988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Pedro Chavez, president of the provincial assembly of City of Havana Province, and (Valeriy Saykin), deputy chairman of the Moscow Oblast Soviet, have signed a plan for 1989 which includes the exchange of experiences on enterprise organization, maintenance repair for light-weight vehicles, paint production for the city, and the introduction of a [word indistinct] for street maintenance which will work on rock and asphalt.

The cooperation plan of the scientific-technical agreement between the two capitals also includes issues of great interest for the integral development of Havana City, which includes the rehabilitation and the improvment of urban homes.

Havana Notes Actions of Estonian Parliament

FL1811175188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0046 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Report by Sergio Escalona, Intersputnik Division of "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Text] Univision, which is broadcast from the United States, last night reported on a surprising news item. It said that the Socialist Republic of Estonia, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Estonia [repeats himself] had declared its sovereignty. I must confess I was suprised by that news. I was not exactly sure what Univision was trying to say.

Today, the report has a different context. Yesterday, the legislative body of Estonia approved a modification to article 74 of its Constitution which authorizes the executive organ to suspend or limit the application of Soviet

laws. This, in two words, means that the parliament of the Republic of Estonia granted itself the right of not respecting the general laws for the whole Soviet multinational state.

Getting to the point of the matter, this is simply a road to the dismemberment of the Soviet state. Furthermore, it is not the first time, in the past 3 years in which changes has been taking place in the Soviet Union, that this tendency is manifested. During the Nagorno-Karavakh days, someone also appeared who spoke about taking out that autonomous region from USSR territory.

Throughout the 4 months and some days that "Exclusivo" program has been on the air, we have insisted on one thing: Imperialism is taking advantage of the situation in the USSR—which is searching for changes, reforms, etc.— to penetrate and create a number of ideas which go directly against the foundations of socialism. Here, in this program, we carried a report once on Robert Gates, CIA deputy director, which said that the CIA had a study showing that there were over 600 points of conflict for the USSR which involved nationality problems.

I am absolutely convinced—and I am a person who has the privilege of watching the Vremya program in its entirety, every day—that this tendency is being manifested and is imported. It comes from abroad. I also have the great satisfaction of seeing how the Soviet leadership is conscious of this and refutes it immediately.

Today we have also received a report that the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet agreed today to examine in its next meeting a constitutional amendment, approved by the parliament of Estonia—this is the one I was refering to—because it is considered in violation of the Magna Carta of the USSR.

I feel great satisfaction in hearing this report, because if there is one thing I am completely convinced of, it is that the great USSR will never be dismembered.

Meeting Held With USSR on Nickel Cooperation

FL2111132288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Cuba-USSR work group for scientific-technological nickel cooperation met over the weekend in Moa. The meeting was held at the Commander Ernesto Che Guevara nickel enterprise which is in the technical adjustment stage.

The meeting was presided over by Antonio de los Reyes Cuban vice minister of basic industry, and his Soviet counterpart, Igor Prokopov.

The first production line of the Ghe Guevara enterprise has become operational. Two other lines will start production later. When the plant is functioning at full capacity, it will process 30,000 tons of nickel a year. Nickel is one of the country's principal export products.

A plant similar to the Che Guevara enterprise is being constructed and assembled with advice from CEMA countries in the area known as Las Camaroicas.

Dominican Secretary at Education Conference

FL2111141488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Dominican secretary of state for education, fine arts, and public worship, Lic Pedro Pichardo Tejeda, is in Cuba to participate in the first Ibero-American Conference on Education which will be held in Havana from 24 to 26 November.

Pichardo was greeted at the airport by Jose Ramon Fernandez and Fernando Vecino Alegret, ministers of education and higher education, respectively.

Almost 20 countries from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal will participate in the conference. During the meeting, the delegates will study the present economic situation and its effect on education in general. They will also discuss the possibilities for education, work, and employment cooperation among the Ibero-American countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Sri Lanka

FL1611222388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, ICAP, and the Sri Lanka-Cuba Friendship Association today held their first cooperation meeting in our capital. This will strengthen the already existing bonds between the two countries even more .

Guillen Zelaya, vice president of ICAP, and Mr (Sudasmid Henawana), Central Committee member of the Sri Lankan Communist Party, signed an agreement for the 1989-93 5-year period. The document establishes the importance of fraternal cooperation.

The agreement deals with the exchange of media delegations and materials, celebrating national holidays, as well as receiving scholarship winners, diplomats, and technicians.

Both parties agreed that the signing of this protocol will allow activities between both associations to be regulated and will increase the solidarity which unites Cuba and Sri Lanka.

Caricom

OECS Promises To Cooperate With Bush

FL1811171788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1514 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Nov 17, CANA—Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the current chairman of the seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), has promised United States President-Elect George Bush the cooperation of Eastern Caribbean governments, as he assumes "the responsibility of leadership of the free world."

Mitchell's pledge was contained in a congratulatory message he sent to Bush following his election to the U.S. presidency. Mitchell said that the OECS valued President Ronald Reagans initiatives in the region and looked forward to their continuation.

The OECS governments, he added, were hoping that Bush would enhance the presidential award programme which, since its inception, has provided young people in the OECS with new opportunities for training.

Barbados

Prime Minister Answers Opposition's Charge

FL1711235788 Bridgetown CANA in English 0010 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 16, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford on Wednesday condemned an opposition charge that the government can afford to offer civil servants wage increases, as mischievous and inaccurate.

Opposition leader Henry Forde had told parliament Tuesday that the government's revenue in October was Bds102 million dollars (one bds dollar—50 U.S. cents)—35 million more than the October 1987 figure—and the highest monthly increase ever. Forde said it put the government in a position to meet the increase in the wage bill without having to "come back to parliament for new taxation."

Civil servants here are locked in a protected negotiation with the administration for higher salaries and have recently been flexing their industrial muscle. Some staged sick-outs this week and last week to press their demands.

Sandiford said that the opposition leaders revenue figure was 1.4 million dollars higher than what was collected. He said it was inaccurate, too, that the revenue was the largest monthly figure, because the largest was the 51 million dollars collected by the Barbados Labour Party when in government during 1982-83. He did, however, say in which month this figure was recorded.

According to Sandiford, the 1988 to 1989 budget set out to close a current account deficit which now stands at 14.4 million dollars. I don't understand how the leader of the opposition can say that we are in a comfortable position to pay uncalculated demands when we are still in a deficit. It makes no sense," Sandiford said.

Forde had also referred to the government's pre-payment of funds to the University of the West Indies [UWI] to assist the Mona Campus in Jamaica which was damaged by hurricane Gilbert in September. "It is heartless (for) the leader of the opposition and his party to indicate that we should turn a blind eye to that particular situation," said the prime minister who noted that the UWI was a regional institution which benefited Barbadians.

Sandiford said the opposition's statement was self-serving and an effort to ingrain itself on perons "they believe might be in conflict with the government at this time."

"I believe that the process of collective bargaining should take their own course and I think it is most improper for the leader of the opposition to intervene in this way by making statements which are inaccurate and can only create mischief in the circumstances," Sandiford said.

Opposition Leader Denied Rebuttal Time

FL1911003388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2152 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 18, CANA—The state-owned radio and television corporation has denied Barbados opposition leader Henry Forde time to rebut a broadcast by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford. In a short letter, [Caribbean Broadcasting Company) CBC said it was "unable to make its facilities available".

Forde had on Thursday requested of Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation "equal prime time on television and radio to respond to what it obviously a political statement."

On Wednesday, Sandiford answered the opposition leaders charge that the government's revenues in October were the highest ever for a single month and put it in a position to pay salary demands to civil servants.

"I think it is most inappropriate for the leader of the opposition to intervene in this way by making statements which are inaccurate and can only create mischief," Sandiford said in a 10-minute prepared statement carried on radio and television Wednesday night. Forde said the opposition "has a responsibility to inform" and to be critical of those things which are not in the best interest of Barbados.

"Mr Sandiford can monopolise the CBC and the CBC can deny us equal time as it has done. But we will not be silenced. If it is damaging to the government for the opposition to say that the public revenues increased by 35 million dollars in October, it is no less damaging for the government to inform the public that the increase is

not 35 million, it is only 333.6 million," Ford said in a statement prepared to be broadcast but which got the thumbs down from CBC General Manager Sam Taitt. [figures as received]

"There has developed a fortress mentality in the highest executive office in the land which is so antagonistic to legitimate commentary and criticism that from it has evolved a stated policy that...the public will in future be bombarded by statements of the prime minister on any comment which appears to be critical of his administration," Forde said. Last week, Sandiford announced he would be fully responding to those who criticised the government.

Grenada

GULP Leader Wants U.S. Military Base

FL1511204588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2018 GMT 15 Nov 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 12, CANA—Head of the opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), Sir Eric Gairy, says that if his party wins the general election constitutionally due within 16 months, it will invite U.S. President-elect George Bush to set up a permanent American military base here.

Gairy, who was ousted as Grenada's first prime minister in a 1979 leftist coup, said that a future GULP government would also provide the U.S. with suitable site on which to construct the base.

He told CANA that the labour party welcomed Bush's victory in this week's presidential elections and would invite him to pay another visit to the island once in office. Bush visited Grenada in 1985. Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has also extended another invitation to Bush to visit the island again. Gairy has dispatched a message to Bush in which he said that Grenadians are extremely happy over the "resounding victory" over democratic challenger Michael Dukakis. "Confident your victory symbolizes continuation of President Reagan's policy for Grenada. World regards Grenada as landmark of America's strength. Rescue mission demonstrates America's commitment to protect free world from communist domination", he told Bush.

Reagan ordered U.S. troops into Grenada in 1983 to end the island's near 5 years of non-elected marxist rule after Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed in a bloody palace coup.

According to Gairy, the GULP would like to see a Bush administration demonstrate a strong line against communism in the area - like what Reagan showed.

"President Reagan has been a strong government head, and we look forward to President-elect Bush exercising the same strength," he said.

"President Reagan is a man of action and not a man of words and we look forward to the same measure of action from Mr Bush because the communists have not given up", he added.

The former Grenada prime minister also expressed the hopte that under Bush Washington would continue giving "serious assistance" to the small east Caribbean island. He said that it was important for the U.S. to maintain its economic assistance programme in security, defence, roads, scholarships, and training despite what he said was the Grenada Government's inability to properly manage it.

"We look forward to the strengthening of ties with the United States of America", he remarked.

Haiti

Reaction to Massacre Investigation Noted

FL1811185088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Reaction has come in following the military government's announcement of the investigations conducted on the 29 November 1987 massacre and the murder of Louis Eugene Athis and two companions.

IMED, which is the Motivational Institute for Democratic Instruction, says that the report constitutes a slap in the face to truth and dishonors, both, those who ordered it and those who signed it.

IMED says: On the eve of 29 November 1988, the conclusions drawn in these reports disturbs and angers the Haitian people. It would be in the interest of the military government to set in motion action against the people who organized the 29 November massacre. To relax the atmosphere, the government should release the 17 September movement soldiers who have been under arrest since 15 October.

The Haitian Government should understand that the entire nation is very grateful to these soldiers, who rid the country of the Namphy clique, which bears responsibility for the 29 November 1987 massacre. [passage omitted]

IMED continues: The population became even more anxious when the provisional government did not take definate steps to prosecute the individuals who participated in the crimes—which were committed openly. The last of these massacres and murders occurred on 11 September 1988. [passage omitted]

IMED says that in the text of the draft decree issued by the government, it strayed from the Constitution. This is a political choice the government made and they continue, the Haitian people's anger will increase—this

occurred in 1987, when the National Government Council showed clearly that it had decided to take away, the authority that the Constitution gave the CEP, the Provisional Electoral Council. [passage omitted]

The National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28] [a member of the Patriotic Unitarian Bloc, BIP] feels that the analysis made in the report shows the lack of impartiality by the six members of the investigating committee, who look like a team of flunkies, who don't have the courage to tell the truth even when it is blatant. [passage omitted]

They say the investigating committee is obviously adhering to macoute ideology, when it affirms that the Duvalierists and the Tontons Macoutes are the heirs of the 1946 revolution. The committee presents them as little angels, who made a small mistake and that is why they needed to take back power with the intention of revitalizing it—as if they have a new formula, a reviewed, corrected, and increased Duvalierism. Thus, 29 years of pain is not enough for the Haitian people! [passage omitted]

MNP-28 says that the partisan character of the investigating committee's specialists is even more obvious when they brazenly affirm, without any proof, that the constitutional CEP was guiding the elections and intending to favor the candidate of the National Concerted Action Front [FNC]—despite the fact that they acknowledge the majority of the Haitian people had been following the watchwords of the FNC since the time when the FNC was still the Group of 57. [passage omitted]

Everybody knows the truth. Most of the Haitian clergy wants a complete change, and that is why all the forces of darkness and death are singling out the clergy, says the MNP-28. [passage omitted]

The MNP-28 recommends that the government throw that report into the trash can (?and) set up a responsible, self-respecting committee. It asks the government to set in motion public action against all the bandits whom the Haitian people have already denounced, (?and not for nought), in connection with the November clash. It also asks that the homes and property of the suspects be confiscated while awaiting the Justice Department's final word because it is not normal for the Haitian Government to repair the damages caused by the murderers. They also ask that the salaries of the six specialists be returned to the state coffers. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that this report was prepared under General Namphy, and it was the Namphy government who ordered this investigation. The name of the APN, People's National Assembly, came up in this report. The APN vehemently protests the report and wishes to comment.

APN says this report seems to be accusing them; the APN had said previously that no elections could be held as long as the macoutes were in power.

In order to clarify things for the national and international public, the APN asks the justice minister and the Prosper Avril government the following questions:

Who went on television to threaten the population? Who dismantled the vigilance brigades that were protecting the population against macoute exactions?

Wasn't it, according to the statements made by all the foreign journalists who were in Haiti on 29 November, a member of the fireman's corps who shot at the reporter from the American television network CBS?

Why is it that the Avril government made the report public after the death of Colonel Jean-Claude Paul?

APN says that it would like to hear what the Avril government has to say in response because it is clear that it was the macoutes, under the protection of—according to the APN—the Dessalines Barracks, who were operating on 29 November.

As we said, the APN vehemently protests this report.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Announces Economic Recovery Plan

FL1911003488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 18 Nov 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov. 18 CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Friday announced the country had now officially set out to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) its programme for economic recovery, envisaging reduction of the public service by nearly 10,000, and talks with labour to postpone payment of cost of living allowances ordered by the industrial court here.

Robinson also announced in a statement to parliament that the country had successfully negotiated rescheduling of the part of its foreign debt owed to creditor commercial banks. Debt owed to official credit agencies was expected to be dealt with by the end of this year.

Trinidad and Tobago is hoping to get access to 50 per cent of its IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDR) quota, amounting to some 470 million dollars (one TT dollar—23.5 U.S. cents), through the funds compensatory Financing Facility (CFF).

Trinidad and Tobago is seeking support to make up for the sharp falloff in earnings from petroleum exports, following the collapse of oil prices. The downturn in oil has caused widespread economic dislocation here, forcing the government to devalue the TT dollar, and pushing unemployment past the 20 per cent mark.

Robinson, the finance minister of Trinidad and Tobago, and Central Bank Governor William Demas on Wednesday wrote IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus a letter of intent outlining the parameters of the country's economic plans for 1989, which include eliminating Central Bank Control on interest rates at commercial banks, and a reduction in foreign exchange control from January. The letter forecasts reduction of the 65,000-strong public service by 9,600 through a proposed voluntary early retirement and severance schemes by 1990, saving the government 190 million dollars in the years following their departure from the service and after payment of severance benefits.

Additionally, the letter said that government will propose talks with labour unions here to delay payment of the cost of living allowances (COLA) to public servants which it initially scrapped, but was ordered by the industrial court to reinstate.

Other plans outlined include capital development programmes, a shift from direct to indirect taxation from next year, phasing out the secondary reserve requirements for commercial banks.

Robinson insisted that the measures were put together after discussions with the fund, but insisted Trinidad and Tobago was in control.

"I wish to emphasis...that these are our measures. This is our programme and not one dictated by any international institution," Robinson told parliament.

On the re-scheduling of the commercial bank part of the foreign debt, Robinson said this would account for some 1.1 billion dollars (TT) of the overall debt to 1992. Robinson said that talks on the remainder of the debt owed to official creditors are expected to be completed by the end of the year following further discussions with the Paris Club.

Trinidad and Tobago originally sought overall rescheduling of the principal part of the foreign debt, but in early October after a meeting in London, Robinson returned home speaking of plans to refinance the debt, instead.

"In a previous statement...I mentioned that the preferred option of the agent banks was for refinancing rather than rescheduling of the commercial debt," Robinson recalled. "In subsequent discussions, it was agreed by both sides that the rescheduling option should be reverted to owing to the large number of small creditor banks that had been identified," he explained. The number of small creditor banks was put at 85.

Robinson also spoke briefly of two new loans from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), amounting to some 139 million dollars (TT), to finance pre-investment activities.

An IDB mission is due here in December to discuss other programmes, Robinson said. He promised further details as talks continue.

Black Muslim Group Raided, 34 Arrested

FL1611221688 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 16, CANA—Trinidad police on Wednesday reported they had raided the headquarters of controversial black muslim group, Jamaat al-Muslimeen, detained 34 persons, and seized firearms and ammunition.

Police Commissioner Louis Rodriguez told a news conference the raid, carried out by 160 police officers at 0530 hours (local time), resulted from investigations into "instances of violent misconduct" which took place in the country over the past month. He said it appeared that the aggressors were affiliated with the organisation based in Mucurapo on the outskirts of Port of Spain, and as a result a warrant was obtained and the premises of the Jamaat raided.

The 34 detainees, who are expected to appear in court on Thursday, did not include leader Imam Abu Bakr, arrested last year for illegal marches in the streets of Port-of Spain and Arima. One of the 32 men and two women was arrested on a warrant for larceny of a car, and another six for robbery and charges of shooting.

Rodriguez said that several would be charged for being in possession of firearms and ammunition and the remainder are suspects in several "serious" crimes such as rapes, robberies and murders.

The firearms seized included three rifles and one improvised pistol. the police also reported finding 247 rounds of ammunition (three rounds of which they said were found in the mosque on the compound), one hand grenade, a gas cylinder used in certain types of firearms, and a mask which the commissioner claimed had been used in robberies over the past months.

Three vehicles were also seized, two of them identified as having been used in robberies recently, and the other suspected of being stolen.

Muslims Appear in Court

FL1811023588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2235 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 17, CANA—Five of 34 muslims appeared in court here Thursday afternoon on a number of firearms and theft charges following a pre-dawn raid by police on their headquarters in the residential area of St. James Wednesday.

The five included two women, Armitulla Abdullah, 24, charged with illegal possession of 79 rounds of ammunition and a rifle, and Sonayah Razi, 31, charged with possession of a hand grenade, two automatic rifles and 136 rounds of ammunition.

Both women were denied bail, despite the fact that Razi had given birth to a child just five weeks ago.

The five muslims were aged 16 to 31 years, charged with stealing a luzury car.

As they were escorted out of court, other members of the sect chanted Allah Akbar (God is Good) in the corridors of the court building.

Police said the other 29 were still being investigated and were likely to appear in court Friday.

Raymond Springer, 25, was jointly charged with Abdullah and was also denied bail by Magistrate Cheryl Charles.

Curtis Prescott, 16, is charged with illegal possession of one round of ammunition and was granted TT5,000 dollars (one TT dollar ; 23.5 cents U.S.) bail, while punch was granted bail of 18,000 dollars. The five will reappear in court on November 25.

Police Commissioner, Louis Rodriguez, said Wednesday that 247 rounds of ammunition, three rifles, an improvised rifle, and a hand grenada were found during the raid.

Ortega To Attend Salinas Inauguration 1 Dec

PA2011034988 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] It has been learned that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has confirmed his intention to attend the presidential inauguration of Mexican president-Elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 1 December.

President Views Report on Relations With U.S.

PA1911015388 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Nov pp 1, 10-A

[Report by Salvador Martinez Garcia]

[Excerpts] President de la Madrid said the foreign policies of the United States and Mexico "are not shaped in cabinets isolated from reality; they are the result of opinions or pressures of societal groups." He made the statement when he received a 2-year report drafted by the Commission on Future Relations Between Mexico and the United States.

He added that besides the common desire in Latin America to improve relations with the United States, there is the feeling much has to be done to achieve this objective on the basis of good information, open dialogue, and good faith." [no opening quotation marks as published.]

Concerning the report he received, he said: "I believe it comes at an auspicious occasion, when there is renewal in both countries and a fresh focus, which we hope will produce a fresh focus from both sides, especially at this time when the Latin American countries have pointed out the importance of a dialogue between the United States and the rest of the continent."

He said he was certain there are many points of concensus and positive contacts and that existing differences can be overcome if they are analyzed with objectivity and, of course, looking out for similar interests of both parties.

He added that from the beginning he saw great interest in the task, because the commission members are persons of great talent, good faith, and a desire to contribute their opinions to this very complex subject of Mexican-U.S. relations.

De la Madrid said the commission's viewpoint serves both governments because it is of the highest quality, and this study "can even serve as a model for others." [passage omitted]

In Mexico, a copy of the report will be handed to President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari. [passage omitted]

Further on Report

PA2011154288 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 8

[Report by Armando Cruz Sanchez and Luz Arcelia Camarena]

[Excerpts] In its report presented yesterday to President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the Commission on Future U.S.-Mexican Relations stated that the bilateral problems between Mexico and the United States call for bilateral solutions; unilateral solutions will never be lasting solutions. The commission presented its recommendations to the president-elect during a meeting at his private offices located at Cracovia 90.

The commission feels the U.S. Government should admit that the demand for drugs in the United States is the moving force behind the production and traffic of drugs in Mexico. [passage omitted]

After admitting that Mexico and the United States share mutual interests despite historical, cultural, political, social, and economic development differences, the report presented by the commission broaches five of the most important issues in bilateral relations: economy (debt, trade, and investment), drugs, foreign policy and international relations, immigration, and education and public opinion.

The document stresses that the economic situation experienced by the two governments is similar in several aspects. The two countries are large foreign debtors, and the two depend on their exports for their economic growth. However, the differences are even greater: The United States is one of the richest countries in the world, whereas Mexico is a slowly developing nation with a standard of living that has dropped quite visibly.

The document adds that finding economic solutions that will benefit both sides or at least compensate for losses is the way to reduce the possibility of conflict. [passage omitted]

The Mexican Government also should expand its exchange of debt for capital plan and look for other markets that will help reduce the amount of the existent debt.

Regarding trade exchange between the United States and Mexico, the commission suggests the two countries continue to grant each other reciprocal concessions and take steps toward reaching agreements in the area of free trade.

The report recommends that the Mexican Government's new foreign investment plan be based on a more open and consistent policy. It suggests that this policy be aimed at promoting the export of manufactured goods, tourism, and assembly plants; reestablishing its debt-for-capital plan in those areas that will help the country; and promoting foreign investment plans, including the transfer of advanced technology. [passage omitted]

The commission also feels the successful solution to the debt, trade, and investment problems are a prerequisite for the solution of the migration problem. [passage omitted]

Regarding the drug-trafficking problem, the commission states the two governments must increase their support for the multilateral efforts being made to control the use of drugs; decrease the level of rhetoric; establish a joint mechanism for periodic meetings and cooperation in the struggle against drugs; and establish joint efforts to create a model of cooperation among consuming and producing countries to attack the problem. [passage omitted]

On the subject of foreign policy, the report mentions that the marked differences in the two nations' foreign policies forced the commission to view the two policies separately.

During the postwar period, disagreements regarding Latin American, especially Central American, issues have been the main difference in the foreign policies of Mexico and the United States.

Among other measures, the commission has proposed that the United States create an office responsible for coordinating U.S. policy toward Mexico and strengthen communication between the legislative branches of the two countries, especially the Mexican-U.S. interparliamentarian group.

Salinas, Cerezo Issue Communique on Meeting
PA1911175588 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 7

["Text of official communique" issued following the meeting of President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 11 November]

[Text] Mexican President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari paid a courtesy visit today on Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

During their meeting, the president and the president-elect held a broad and fruitful discussion on a wide range of topics of mutual interest. The talks dealt with bilateral matters as well as with the current international situation.

In a climate of great cordiality and friendship, they commented on the favorable momentum that relations between Mexico and Guatemala have had in recent years. This momentum began especially during President Cerezo's term, as this meant the return of democratic institutions in Guatemala. They observed that the cooperative ties between the two nations have reached a high level of development, which must become consolidated and further broadened in the very near future.

In this respect, they agreed that it is imperative to maintain close and permanent contacts between Mexico and Guatemala at the highest level, as a relationship between equals, neighbors, and brothers demands. The goal is to expand the information of their respective situations and thus be able to increase the necessary actions of cooperation to upgrade the living standards of their peoples.

Likewise, the presidents agreed that the modernization that their societies demand is the appropriate instrument to find prompt and balanced solutions to the tremendous challenge of achieving sustained economic growth with structural changes and financial stability, within a pluralistic and democratic framework.

Moreover, they had a broad discussion on the Latin American outlook. They stressed the advances achieved in the region in the past years in the quest to reach a more solid process of true integration. This process is based on a wide range of multilateral cooperation agreements to deal with the serious problems in the economic, political, and social arenas.

The situation in Central America had a relevant place in this dialogue. They reviewed the agreements made by the area presidents to establish the bases for a politically negotiated solution to existing differences. This solution has to include the just aspirations of the Central American peoples and be based on their inalienable right to freely choose their political, economic, and social systems. They noted this is the reason why the Esquipulas plan must be vigorously continued with the broadest support and cooperation of the Latin American and international communities.

President - elect Salinas de Gortari and President Cerezo agreed to meet on the soonest date possible to continue furthering the bilateral rapprochement of two neighboring nations that already have exemplary relations.

Mexican President - elect Salinas de Gortari conveyed to Guatemalan President Cerezo and the Guatemalan people his profound recognition for the attention he received during his visit.

El Salvador

Duarte Terms Suspension of Summit 'Mistake'

PA1811133388 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Interview with President Jose Napoleon Duarte and Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, by unidentified reporters during graduation ceremony at the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy in San Salvador on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] [Duarte] I think it is a historic mistake not to hold the Central American presidential summit. I think we must hold it. I think we must get ready to hold it. It would also be a historic mistake to hold the presidential summit but not reach conclusions. We must reach conclusions. That is why we must prepare for the summit. I am ready and prepared to hold that meeting. I have suggested we meet here in San Salvador. I said we must get ready so that the presidents' meeting, with which I agree, has objectives and a raison d'etre.

[Reporter] Regarding Honduras' problem with Nicaragua, which is related to the holding of the summit meeting, Honduras has said Nicaragua's suit against Honduras [at the International Court of Justice] creates a stumbling block.

[Duarte] Those are the problems we have. Those problems should be discussed by the Esquipulas Executive Committee. That is the reason for the foreign ministers' meeting.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] We are doing that. I will be under treatment for 4 or 5 days, but the treatment allows me to work a few hours a day. Thank you.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I think this is a political victory for El Salvador. Such an internationally important event is being held in this country, which is suffering domestic strife. The agreements will be made known later. I think the OAS delegates have condemned drug trafficking, and they have endorsed solving conflicts through peaceful means and not using violence to reach power.

[Reporter] Can this be a forum to achieve peace in Central America? [words indistinct]

[Ponce] In this case, I believe the only one who can comment on the matter is the president. The agreements have not been disclosed yet. The president will give his views later.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I said that in this country, the Armed Forces perform a constitutional and institutional mission. We have a president who is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Therefore, we are going to comply with what the president and the government decide on this matter.

[Reporter] What results do the Armed Forces expect from this OAS meeting in El Salvador?

[Ponce] We thought it appropriate for this organization to condemn international terrorism. Moreover, we wanted it to condemn those elements in our country who are seeking power through violent means.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Pardon me?

[Reporter] Are there any important military operations now [words indistinct] the meeting?

[Ponce] We are carrying out an operation in all the area around San Salvador. We are on alert in case of any violent reaction. According to information we seized from the terrorists [words indistinct], they may start as of 1800 tomorrow. We are prepared to prevent any damage they may cause.

Presidential Campaign Tickets, Slogans Previewed

PA2011161488 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Nov 88 p 1

[Summary] "The national political campaign for the March 1988 elections for president and vice president begins today."

The political parties that will actively participate in the elections and have already named their candidates:

Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA)—ARENA's presidential and vice presidential candidates, Alfredo Cristiani and Jose Francisco Merino Lopez, respectively, will base their campaign on the slogan: "'Let us change for the better. Cristiani: The president we all want.'"

Christian Democratic Party (PDC)—The PDC's presidential candidate is Fidel Chavez Mena. His running mate has not yet been selected.

Authentic Christian Movement (MAC)—MAC and its presidential candidate, Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, will begin its campaign with the slogan: "'Fito, the presidential friend who has always served his fatherland.'" MAC will name Rey Prendes' running mate in a few days.

Democratic Convergence (CD), comprising:

National Revolutionary Movement [MRN]

Nationalist Democratic Union [UDN]

Social Christian People's Movement [MPSC]—CD, whose candidates are Guillermo Manuel Ungo and Mario Reni Roldan, will use the slogan: "'The alternative is hope. Peace for the people, with the people, for the people.'"

National Conciliation Party (PCN)—The PCN, whose candidates are Rafael Moran Castaneda for president and Alejandro Dagoberto Marroquin for vice president, will use the slogan: "'A PCN government is in the people's interest.'" The PCN will begin the campaign in Ahuachapan, Moran Castaneda's home town. The candidates will then immediately begin a tour of Atiquizaya, Turin, Ataco, Tacuba, etc., in Ahuachapan Department. The PCN's local offices will also organize rallies in all the departments.

In addition, other parties are expected to nominate their respective candidates in a few days: Democratic Action Party (AD)
Popular Union (UP), comprising:

Liberation Party (PL)

Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party (PAISA)

Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS)

"Renewal Action Party (PAR) and Popular Orientation Party (POP) have not decided whether they will participate in the presidential elections as independent parties or as part of some coalition.

"The Central Electoral Council (CCE) has formally and officially asked all parties to conduct a campaign that instills a civic culture among the people. CCE President Jose Perdomo noted that the political parties are obligated to conduct a dignified campaign without insult and slander. He added that the Elections Code is clear and imposes fines on those who break it; therefore, the political parties must respect each other."

Ungo Discusses CD Coalition's Election Goals

PA1911214588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1933 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (DPA)—Guillermo Ungo, presidential candidate of a center-left coalition, said that the elections are not the goal of the Democratic Convergence [CD]. Ungo made this statement today during a political event marking the beginning of the political campaign that will end with the 19 March 1989 elections.

Guillermo Manuel Ungo is the presidential candidate for the CD, which is made up of three center-left parties: the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC), and the Social Democratic Party (PSD). According to Ungo, the CD was not created to participate in the elections.

"The CD," Ungo insisted, "was created to become an instrument to bring together forces searching for a just and lasting peace by means of a peaceful, negotiated solution." Furthermore, he added, votes "are not the actual source of power" in El Salvador.

Ungo said that the CD will focus its campaign on three fundamental issues:

1. The search for a negotiated solution to the war in El Salvador and the creation of awareness among the people of the need for such a solution;

2. The struggle for a real democracy—something that will not be achieved until there is peace; and

3. The struggle for an economy which, unlike the current economy, benefits the majority of Salvadoran citizens.

Ungo, who was the main speaker at a demonstration in a San Salvador theater, said that there had already been signs of the type of democracy the government has to offer as early as the 1st day of the political campaign. He further explained that the Armed Forces had arrested truckloads of peasants and CD supporters traveling from around the country to San Salvador.

He also spoke at a rally for Reni Roldan, Ungo's running mate, who said that the struggle of the democratic forces in the country is against foreign and domestic enemies—first the United States, and second the Armed Forces and parties that favor foreign geopolitical interests.

He said the Armed Forces' power is evident; in a city in the country's interior that has a mayor elected by the people and a military commander, it is easy to see which one really has the power.

Ruben Zamora, who together with Ungo has been one of the principal leaders of the FDR, a political ally of the FMLN, said that "the CD may be new, but as a convergence party it also encompasses the entire historic struggle of the Salvadoran people to achieve independence and self-determination."

Zamora said that this new stage resembles the coalition of the National Opposition Union (UNO), which today is shrinking while others betrayed or sold themselves for the sake of ambition; this is a clear allusion to the Christian Democratic Party, which in 1972 led presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte, backed by the UNO. When they won at the polls, it was said that the military stole the victory.

On the 1st day of the election campaign, other parties, such as the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), only ran some radio, television, and newspaper advertisements. The National Conciliation Party and the Christian Democratic Party did the same thing.

FMLN Message Welcomes Palestinian State

PA2011041788 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Message from FMLN General Command to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO Executive Committee, issued in San Salvador on 11 November]

[Text] Dear comrades: We celebrate with great joy the decision made by the PLO Executive Committee to create an independent Palestinian state. This decision, in addition to the Palestinian people's struggle, undoubtedly signals a new achievement on the path to final victory. [Words indistinct] the legitimate right that all peoples have to exercise their right to self-determination and sovereignty.

The FMLN highly values the Palestinian people's heroic struggle, which is an example for our people and their [word indistinct]. [Signed] FMLN General Command San Salvador, 11 November 1988

FMLN Reportedly Attacks San Buenaventura

PA1911222088 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] We were notified this morning that FMLN guerrillas attacked San Buenaventura last night and practically destroyed the municipal and telephone company buildings. The people who called us said that because there is no military garrison in the town, the guerrillas entered and destroyed the buildings with impunity. We were told no one was injured.

Rebels Claim 50 Troop Casualties in Ambushes

PA2011000988 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2305 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Your attention, please. We defeated the dictatorship at the OAS General Assembly sessions, and now we have defeated it on the battlefield. There have been 50 casualties in only 3 ambushes in 1 day. An ambush on the highway [words indistinct] resulted in 15 casualties among the puppet Army troops. An ambush against the 4th Infantry Brigade troops on the trunk highway [words indistinct] in Chalatenango Department. On the same day, in a third ambush on the highway [word indistinct] of Tecoluca Jurisdiction, Anastasio Aquino units inflicted 20 casualties on the troops of the dictatorship. On the 19th, we inflicted a total of 50 casualties on the enemy troops in three ambushes. Also, from the southern part of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Guazapa, we attacked and routed enemy troops from their positions.

Honduras

Bomb Explodes at Liberal Party Headquarters

PA1911161288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1525 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran police reported today that a powerful bomb exploded Friday night at the heaquarters of the ruling Liberal Party in San Pedro Sula, in the northern part of the country, causing extensive damage but no casualties.

According to the police, the bomb was apparently the work of the People's Morazanist Front (FPM), which appeared in 1979.

The police report says that following the explosion, the area was searched and FPM propaganda was found, but the report did not disclose the contents of the propoganda.

The Liberal Party is greatly divided and will be holding elections on 4 December for a presidential candidate to run in the November 1989 elections.

FPM Claims Responsibility

PA2111002788 Paris AFP in Spanish 2249 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Nov (AFP)—Tegucigalpa police today disclosed that the clandestine People's Morazanist Front (FPM) has claimed responsibility for Friday's bomb explosion at the headquarters of the ruling Liberal Party in the city of San Pedro Sula in the northern part of Honduras.

The explosive device partially destroyed a wall and the roof of the building and caused damage to two homes, but no casualties were reported.

The police reported that FPM propaganda was discovered at the party headquarters and that the FPM was also responsible for a similar explosive device placed in a telephone factory in the port region of La Ceiba on the Atlantic coast on 12 November.

In flyers left at the attack sites, the FPM urged residents to initiate an "armed struggle" against the U.S. military presence in Honduras.

The FPM emerged about a decade ago, and since then has perpetrated several attacks in Honduras' leading cities, but the most serious attack so far was last Friday's.

Nicaragua

Assembly Approves Constitution-Level Amparo Law

PA1911162488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] After 2 weeks of intensive debate, primarily on technical matters, yesterday the full National Assembly approved the constitution-level Amparo Law, which consists of 84 articles.

The National Assembly thereby fulfilled the mandate of Article 134 of the Constitution, which calls for three basic constitution-level laws to be drafted; namely, the Electoral and Emergency Laws, which have already been approved, and the Amparo Law.

The sole chapter of the Amparo Law refers to the supremacy of the Constitution, and establishes that constitutional control is exercised by the Supreme Court of Justice.

One of the chapters [as heard] that generated heated debate concerned suits filed on the basis of unconstitutionality and the procedure for filing such suits.

The purpose of the constitution-level Amparo Law is to regulate suits filed on the basis of unconstitutionality, requests for amparo, and requests for habeas corpus [exhibicion personal], to make them conform with the Constitution so as to maintain and reaffirm its supremacy.

The law states that courts will always adhere to the principle that the Constitution prevails over any international law or treaty.

Paper Contrasts Ortega Brothers' View of War
PA1811224688 Managua LA CRONICA in Spanish 12-18 Nov 88 p 10

[Unattributed article: "Two Men, Two Ways of Seeing the Same War"]

[Text] President Daniel Ortega admitted on 7 November that the anti-Sandinist rebel forces continue to be the equivalent of "a speck in the eye" and that "everything possible is being done to find a negotiated solution" between his government and the United States. His brother, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, optimistically has said: "With Bush or without Bush, with Reagan or without Reagan, the contras are defeated." This shows that the military approach and the political viewpoint appear to be on different tracks.

The concern about reorganizing the military cadres and the military leadership's constant calls for youths to join their ranks show that the war has not ended.

We must remember that at the end of October, after the U.S. Congress approved more than $27 million for the anti-Sandinist armed forces, the rebel leaders ordered their men to return to combat positions outside Honduras, where, according to Sandinist military leaders, the largest number of rebels have taken refuge. Their number is estimated to be at least 6,000 men.

Reflecting on the latent threat of war, President Ortega seemed to evaluate the political-military situation differently than his brother when on 7 November he asked the Honduran Army not "to let itself be manipulated into an adventure against Nicaragua."

Although the Nicaraguan Government has been extending an unilateral cease-fire since July because of the breakdown of negotiations with the Nicaraguan Resistance leaders, rebel cells have been staging small-scale incursions from Honduran territory, causing casualties and damage in the continuation of the war of attrition or low-intensity conflict.

The defense minister does not seem to lose any sleep over the incursions by antigovernment armed groups—unlike the political leaders, who express concern over the uncertain end of a more-than-6-year-old war, the prolongation of which is greatly dependent on the decisions adopted by the new White House occupant. The rebel leaders know this and are continuing to push their cause in the United States.

The facts that constitute a constant concern for the analysts and political leaders of the Sandinist government seem to go unnoticed by some EPS military leaders wanting to project the image of the total defeat of the rebels, who are currently affected by the "impasse" in the U.S. political situation.

In contrast to the view of the military leadership, the government news media continues to publish the EPS recruitment calls to the Nicaraguan youths, who are showing signs of being discouraged by the war because their studies and normal family life are interrupted when they have to join for 2 years of obligatory military service. This time is extended when they move to the reserves, which exist to maintain a flow of human resources within the Army.

End to U.S. 'Proconsular' Attitude Urged
PA1811181988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2120 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Managua, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist government in Managua today said Central America should put an end to the U.S. "proconsular mentality if the region is to overcome its current state of collapse."

This statement was made to ACAN-EFE by Alejandro Bendana, general secretary of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, who favors stopping all "consultations" between the U.S. Administration and the Central American governments.

"There are countries in this region that consult Washington on everything, from their economic to their financial policies. It is not strange, therefore, that the most powerful civilian in Honduras is the U.S. ambassador," Bendana said.

In Bendana's view, it is necessary for Washington to stop "intervening" in Central America "because when it does, the region's political playacting will change, and even the opposition will be nationalistic and independent."

"The United States has played the center of the political spectrum in Central America, but that center does not exist. El Salvador is proof of that," he emphasized. "Central America, fortunately, has begun to look beyond the Reagan era. That is why it has changed its attitude toward Nicaragua, something Latin America did a long time ago," he pointed out.

Describing Latin America's relations with Nicaragua as "respectful," Bendana said there is a direct link between the democratization processes in Latin America and the region's insistence that the United States repect Nicaragua's right to self-determination.

"We should erect a monument to Reagan and Abrams for having created a rapid movement toward Latin American unity," Bendana added.

The Nicaraguan official believes the pressure the Reagan administration has exerted on Nicaragua over the past few years, the foreign debt problem, and the subcontinent's economic and social situation have forced a reaction from Latin America.

"To the extent that the new Bush administration is capable of ending the Nicaraguan problem, Bush will be giving a signal to the rest of Latin America that he will confront other problems," Bendana said.

"During the Reagan era Central America achieved what seemed impossible: the creation of the Esquipulas plan (a regional peace agreement signed by the five Central American presidents). The plan exists because it was preceded by Contadora (a forum created by Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela)," the Sandinist official said.

"Even Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte has said at the OAS General Assembly under way in his country that Esquipulas is Central America's second declaration of independence, something I said a long time ago," he added.

Saying he does not believe the new U.S. administration "will make radical changes regarding Nicaragua," Bendana pointed out that "it is impossible for Nicaragua to continue paying the political price the United States has imposed on the country."

"The U.S. Administration must be aware of other peoples' sensibilities, respect them, and act accordingly," Bendana concluded.

Editorial on Lifting of State of Emergency

PA1811202688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Nov 88 p 3

[Editorial: "A Necessary Warning"]

[Text] At first, the lifting of the state of emergency announced by President Daniel Ortega after disclosing the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane "Joan" seemed contradictory. Nicaragua had never been hit by a hurricane. We never experienced this situation in normal times, but we did now that we are enduring difficult times. We have already endured foreign military harassment, economic blockade, political polarization promoted from abroad, and more than $12 billion in losses as a result of the aggression. To all this we must now add the destabilizing effects of the hurricane and its harvest of disaster, estimated at more than $800 million.

Any other country in a similar situation, confronting a war of aggression and the worst disaster in its history, would surely have not hesitated to adopt the appropriate legal mechanisms to face such an emergency. However, the revolutionary government has decided to face the challenge of reconstruction supported solely by its trust in the people's cooperation and participation and international help.

Hurricane "Joan" taught us many lessons. It not only tested our National Civil Defense system, our people's great capacity to save thousands of Nicaraguan lives, but also showed us that the country's stability is supported by a strong national consensus. These two pillars of the revolution, defense and national consensus, must now support the task of reconstruction amid stronger economic restrictions, sacrifice, and discipline.

The visible effects of the hurricane necessarily force us to review the economic plans implemented earlier. This will demand changes in attitude by various social groups because we cannot be thinking about the problems of the employee, employer, or private business when the first thing we must do is put a roof over the heads of thousands of brothers and supply them with the tools they need to work and survive in dignity. The hurricane has deeply wounded our economy. Even the government cannot get an exact figure of the damage caused; therefore, we must not think that the suspension of the state of emergency means that all is back to normal. At this moment, nothing could hurt us more than to think everything is back to normal.

Contras Reportedly Kidnap Government Workers

PA1811153088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Communique issued by the Presidential Press and Information Directorate in Managua on 17 November]

[Text] The Presidential Press and Information Directorate hereby informs the people of Nicaragua and the entire world that:

1. On Friday, 11 November, the Rio Coco Municipal Government sent a commission to the Rio Arriba and Rio Coco communities to evaluate the damage caused by floods. There were reports that 80 percent of the houses had been destroyed and that the rice crops on both sides of the river had been lost.

2. On 14 November, counterrevolutionary elements kidnapped the members of this commission comprised of the following comrades: Marcos Padilla, a municipal government analyst; Simon Rocha, in charge of the agricultural project of the (Waronhuan) program; Arnulfo Urbina and Selvy Grid, National Development Bank experts; nurses

Melda Leyva Lopez and Guillermina Mazca Latocut; Jorge Rafael Lopez, malaria control and eradication expert; Fernando Zunica, Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry expert; and driver Riley Bensi.

3. The Nicaraguan Government urges nongovernment organizations, the church, peace commissions, and the Honduran authorities to intervene so that these comrades' physical well-being is respected and so that they are returned to their relatives. Managua, 17 November 1988 For a dignified peace. Free fatherland or death.

Panama

Ritter: Next Days 'Crucial' for U.S. Relations

PA1911001688 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 18 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter has said that the next few days will be crucial in determining whether or not relations between Panama and the United States will be normalized.

"The climate that could develop over the next week will be important in determining the future of our relations with the United States," Ritter said.

Ritter also said that he does not expect "drastic changes" in U.S. policy toward Panama, but he reiterated the Panamanian Government's willingness to engage in a dialogue with Washington in which there is mutual respect.

The foreign minister feels that the only variation that has occurred in the "U.S. aggression" has been a decline in news campaigns against Panama.

The minister also said that there has not yet been any contact between the Panamanian Government and the newly elected George Bush administration.

Solis Palma Speaks in San Miguelito

PA1911132388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0255 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in San Miguelito on the occasion of the 4th year in office of San Miguelito Mayor Balbina de Perinan—live]

[Text] Ministers of state; Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, representative of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; directors and deputy directors of decentralized institutions; Captain Ovidio Reyes, representative of the 11th Military Zone in San Miguelito; Balbina de Perinan, mayor of San Miguelito Distict; Honorable Representative Frank D. Quintero; working committee members and members of the local board of the Belisario Porras Corregimiento; representatives and journalists from the free youth of the GDR; Professor Aristides Blanco; residents of this corregimiento; representatives of the brother Salvadoran people; leaders of the San Miguelito District; representatives of the Association of Professors from the University of Panama; invited guests; ladies and gentlemen:

I did not listen to what someone said when they asked me to tour the streets and sidewalks of San Miguelito. Someone said I could not take it, I do not know. [crowd laughs] I would like to tell him that a very short time ago, I walked many San Miguelito sidewalks and many youngsters got tired. [crowd laughs, applause] Therefore, I will try it again; you tell me when. [applause]

Gentlemen, I believe we have had to lead the country in very difficult and hard times. However, we are not going to regret it. On the contrary, we are thankful for having the opportunity to face these problems with dignity, respect, and love for the fatherland, which those of us who were born in very humble homes have because we are not waiting for those born in golden cradles to win. [applause]

An effort is being made to take power from the people and give it to the Panamanian oligarchy. This has been done in accordance with the interests of the U.S. people and Government, which are completely opposed to the interests of the Panamanian people and Government.

First they sought the opportunity; [crowd shouts slogans] they tried to take advantage of a sad time in the history of a man who betrayed his class, his professional group, and the FDP, which had given him all and to which he belonged [reference to charges leveled by former FDP Colonel Diaz Herrera]. This incident was taken advantage of by the internal enemies of the Republic; by the oligarchy, which longed and longs for power through violent means; and the United States as well, because they are seeking a docile government that will respond to their interests.

We must face this situation. We must face this attack on the nation, and we must all respond to it. Why do they want this? The United States wants it because it wants to keep its bases. It wants to continue to benefit from the national territory, which it stole in 1903. The Panamanian oligarchy wants this because they cannot stand the evolution of the Panamanian state. They want an FDP under civilian rule. But is it because they are against the FDP or because they are against military men? No, they are against these military men, who are with the people and who are of humble origins, and who support the Panamanian people. [applause]

They did not oppose the National Police or the National Guard when commanders and chiefs were members of the oligarchy. They lived together! [applause] They were with them, they supported them with their resources, because they were part of them, and they needed them to maintain their economic power and continue exploiting the Panamanian people. [applause]

What they cannot stand are the commanders, colonels, lieutenant colonels, captains, majors, etc., who come from the Panamanian people. They cannot stand a Garibaldo directing a state institution, but they would stand someone whose name is Arias, de la Gaurdia, or something similar, even if he wore a uniform. That is what they cannot stand! [applause] That is why they want the Defense Forces subordinated to civilian power. But it must be their civilian power. They [the opposition] want their civilian power because they are sure that if the FDP is deposed in Panama, they will have the resources, supported by the United States, to take over power and continue outraging and humiliating the Panamanian people. That is the situation. What is at stake at this time, gentlemen? The nation's dignity is at stake, the homeland's freedom, our beloved Panama is at stake, our songs, our language, all our customs and culture are at stake.

There is something else at stake: the 505 [National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, the people's representatives. They cannot stand to see someone like Rogelio Quintero delivering a good speech or writing a report because the Panamanian people's sons were not permitted to do so in the past. [applause] They cannot see Margarita Pastrana—who has no university education, I am sure—stand in front of a microphone, express herself clearly, demand her rights, and present her demands to the president of the Republic, which is her right as a Panamanian. [applause] That is what they cannot stand, that is what keeps them awake, that is what has led them to betray the Panamanian homeland. They cannot accept the fact that there are five Indians in the Legislative Assembly. That cannot be! Five machiguas [derogatory name for Cuna indians] in the Assembly! That is impossible! [applause] Blacks in the Assembly is unconceivable! In the Assembly, in the homeland, in their homeland! There are no longer legislators representing Cemento Panama, another for the Compania General de Seguros, one for each of the sugar mills, one representing each of the largest companies in our country. They had a majority to continue dominating the Panamanian people through the democratic Panamanian Legislative Assembly.

And that is what they cannot stand. That is what we will lose if we let them win and if we let them overrun us. That is why we must say that, here among the grassroots representatives of the Panamanian community. [applause, shouts] They want us to continue accepting as charity that from time to time the daughter or son of a humble person attends Panama's aristocratic schools. I have always opposed that. I would not knowingly give a scholarship to a humble Panamanian to attend the Colegio Maria Imaculada or La Salle School. I would not. [sustained applause] Gentlemen, the humble mother or father certainly wants his son to hobnob with Panama's aristocracy. That parent feels this is fine because he is fooled. However, he does not realize that in those schools his son is only used so the others can copy his homework, because his son is better than the other students. [applause]

The little aristocratic girl sits next to the poor student to copy her homework. However, that aristocratic girl does not invite her to her birthday party because a poor girl cannot enter the house. The aristocratic girl is just using the poor girl. We cannot continue to be used by the wealthy. The government cannot continue to be the instrument to solve the problems of the decadent aristocracy that has learned not to work and that lives off the sweat of the Panamanian people. [applause]

Gentlemen, the people's representation is at stake. The participation of the low-income communities is at stake. Having more telephones, roads, and electricity is at stake. When was there ever electricity in our country's rural areas? They [the aristocracy] would never have uttered the phrase: a lightbulb in every ranch. They do not think ranches should have electricity because ranches are not entitled to have energy. That is what is at stake. A democratic education is at stake. The people's health is at stake. Many things are at stake. These things are linked to the dignity of the Republic and the handing of Panama over to another nation. And we cannot allow that. We would be betraying our own class and betraying the very roots of the Panamanian nation. [applause]

Frank [not further identified] says we have stopped the conspirators, the little white handkerchiefs, the pots and pans, and the horns. We have not stopped them. They have changed strategy. However, they will continue to try to take power. They lie. They have deceived a sector of the country. They lie without scruples. Many of them call themselves Catholics, yet use religion as an instrument because they shamelessly lie and feel good the next day because they go to confession. When those of us who act honestly make a mistake, we feel remorseful, at least for some time. They do not have that problem. They go to confession and everything is fixed. That is really easy! Really easy!

However, we should not be fooled by those things. We must struggle to defend that which belongs to the people of Panama.

We cannot falter. I congratulate the San Miguelito residents for the work that they have been doing. It would be dishonest for me to say that not many problems remain to be solved, that we have solved most of them. That is not true. The problems are there: the problems of San Miguelito, Colon, and many other parts of the Republic, which we are dutybound to solve to the best of our ability.

We are here at a time of very little income. We have to see where we can find 500,000 balboas. We went to the United Nations to defend the Panamanian position, to have a national... [corrects himself] a world platform to explain our issue. It cost us 41,000 balboas, whereas none of the other trips made by the aristocratic president [reference to deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle] cost less than 300,000 balboas. [applause]

That is the difference. That is the difference. [repeats himself] [prolonged applause] I could not have shown my face here if I had gone to the United Nations and spent $300,000 or $500,000, when I have not solved elementary problems like bridges that simply.... [changes thought]. Although we have said we are happy to admit it, it is very hard for us to be told that we could not even provide 14,000 balboas, when every day we misuse so much of the Panamanian state's resources. [applause]

Let us in the government begin to provide solutions to the extent of our possiblities, and there are always possibilities. The Public Works Ministry lacks diesel to move machines, and we lack machinery because the machines are damaged. But we have gravel, sand, and cement—because cement is also provided by a state institution—and we have the electrical energy to move many things, because the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] will give it to us on credit. We have many other things, and we are going to combine efforts and gather together the state's resources so as to begin to provide at least minor solutions.

I have asked the government team to provide, before the end of the month, an inventory of at least 20,000 or 25,000 homes that are indigent. With Christmas coming, we cannot allow them to go without even a bag of food, when they have gone without food for days. [applause]

Those homes should not lack the most basic things. Those people must be able to feel that Christmas exists and that it represents a hope for their future. I do not like Christmas. I have thought a lot about why I do not like it, and I have reached the conclusion that it is because I did not celebrate Christmas until many years had passed, and perhaps it is the memory of my childhood without Christmas that bothers me. However, I do not want other Panamanian children to have the same problem that I had, that of being sad when the 25th comes around. [applause].

I did not attend my graduation from the National Institute in 1936; I did not have the money to purchase a class ring, and I have not yet bought it. [laughter] Now, it is no longer because I cannot buy it, but because it is too late. [laughter] But I do not want the children of poor Panamanians to be unable to attend a graduation ceremony because they do not have shoes or clothing. That is a responsibility the people's government must confront, if that government is really born from within those people's hearts. [applause, indistinct slogans]

We must make all the necessary sacrifices, but we cannot allow our children to faint at school because they have been unable to drink a cup of coffee. [applause]

That is a problem we have not yet solved, but we must solve it. I am sure that with the nationalistic position of the Panama Defense Forces, and with its sense of humbleness, because its commander grew up in El Terraplen [low-income area of Panama City]....[changes thought]. The FDP commander lived with the humble people and fortunately he has not forgotten that part of his life. I know very few people who share the nationalistic feelings that the FDP commander has, and I know many people. I have met many people who called themselves patriots, but I know who is sincere and I know what the FDP commander has risked to defend his position. That is the reason for my friendship with him. [applause] His humble origin, his own development, and his love for the homeland unite us.

Those things unite us and that unity will not change, not because we do not have disagreements, but because there cannot be disagreements more important than Panama itself. We both feel very deeply for Panama. [applause]

There are many things one would like to say, but gentlemen, the most important thing for me is to feel I am one of you. You have serious problems that we also experienced once. To be with people who are willing to help their brothers; to be with those who work and perform apparently insignificant jobs—but important jobs because of their meaning for their community; to be with you is an honor. I am honored every time I come to San Miguelito and I will come as often as necessary, because I feel at home here, among my own people, and in my own country.

In my country we speak Spanish, we sing Panamanian folk songs, we dance to the tunes of our folk music, and we feel deeply Panamanian in our souls. That is what the San Miguelito people and the Panamanian people do. Those are not the people who permanently betray us because they are only concerned with their own interests. Let us not be deceived. Let us work together and defend our common heritage.

Please criticize what we do not do right. Let [San Miguelito mayor] Balbina go to the permanent cabinet meetings. She can attend those meetings in jeans and tennis shoes if she wants, [crowd laughs] because she can attend those meetings dressed that way. [applause] She is allowed to enter the presidential palace dressed that way. Those who cannot enter the presidential palace dressed that way are foreign reporters, who come dressed that way because they despise our country; we do not tolerate their contempt. Thank you very much.

CONEP Demands Noriega Be 'Relieved'

PA1811133588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian private enterprise is very pessimistic about Panama's future unless General Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of the Panama Defense Forces, is "relieved."

In a National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP) document to which ACAN-EFE gained access, the private sector says that unless the economic crisis is resolved, unemployment will soon reach 25 percent of the labor force—some 200,000 people. [passage omitted]

CONEP, however, recognizes the need for "a dialogue with the Defense Forces," after which a "transition government" should be considered.

Even though the businessmen point out that U.S. sanctions against Panama "were not the initial cause of the economic crisis we are facing," they do recognize that "they contributed to deepening it" and that "they are responsible for this very serious crisis because they had backed the regime virtually from the beginning."

CONEP emphasizes that "economic cooperation should therefore be demanded from the U.S. Government without compromising the legitimate rights and aspirations of our country," among which "is faithful compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties." [passage omitted]

The businessmen demand changes in the judicial branch, the Justice Ministry, the Electoral Tribunal, and the plans on administering the canal, which will be completely administered by Panama beginnning in the year 2000.

PRD Managerial Front Responds

PA2011152688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) Managerial Front has categorically rejected the proposal of the National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, for a transition government, a proposal that rejects a constitutional electoral process and [demands] the withdrawal of the Defense Forces [FDP] as the minimum requirements to solve the Panamanian crisis.

The PRD Managerial Front today issued a communique rejecting the CONEP's proposal of a coup that would replace the current government with a transition government, because Panama's constitutional order and powers would be altered. The Managerial Front also rejects the CONEP's insistence on representing the entire business sector and promoting a new coupist adventure devoid of FDP and popular support.

The Managerial Front's communique concludes with an invitation to CONEP leaders, urging them to express their political views through their respective political parties and not through the business unions, which, were it permitted, would deepen the sad effects of the collective closure of businesses that have cost so many efforts.

The communique, signed by Managerial Front National Secretary Adsinar Cajar, adds that constructive, patriotic work and devotion to creativity and productivity are traits common to all good businessmen and will lead us to the reactivation of the country's economy.

Editorial Supports PRD

PA2011180888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 20 Nov 88 p 4-A

[Editorial: "CONEP's Frustration"]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] Managerial Front has issued a categorical reply to the National Council of Private Enterprise [CONEP] plans to stage a virtual coup d'etat and establish a transition government that will reject the constitutional electoral process and favor a Panama Defense Forces [FDP] fallback. They irresponsibly claim that this is "a position of the business sector."

This is the political stand of opposition parties and should not be shared by an organization that should be promoting the well-being of businessmen.

According to its political stand, CONEP, together with opposition politicians and so-called civic groups, would assure Ambassador Davis that once it calls a strike, our country would collapse and the fatherland's traitors would be appointed to important government posts.

The PRD's Managerial Front has rejected this coup d'etat plan, because CONEP insists on seizing for itself the right to represent the republic's entire business sector; that group is urging the business sector to participate in a new coup d'etat attempt that lacks support from the Panamanian people and the FDP. The Managerial Front reminds CONEP that our businesses that were flourishing in early 1987 are now bankrupt as a result of the political actions of certain business leaders who destroyed businesses through the misuse of CONEP's legal status. The PRD's Managerial Front also urges CONEP to issue political views through political parties and not business groups; if the latter is allowed, the sad effects of the mass closure of businesses, which cost so much to open, will be deepened.

We agree with the front that constructive and patriotic work and dedication to creativity and production, which are characteristics of all good businessmen, will reactivate our country's economy.

Adsinar Cajar, national secretary of the Managerial Front, said that this is the challenge facing all of us businessmen who really want to live in a prosperous but dignified Panama.

That is true. The attempt to mix business with absurd and antipatriotic activities necessarily leads, as it has led CONEP and other organizations linked to it, to the situation it is facing today, because the maneuver of calling a national strike and creating panic has brought about the catastrophic situation they themselves provoked.

We are all suffering: the people, who are resisting amid anguish and destitution, and businessmen, who see their businesses collapse because of their attempts to ruin a hard-working country that had been enjoying high levels of progress.

Party Leader Says Noriega May Run in 1989

PA1911233388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2218 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Panamanian presidential candidate Luis Gaspar Suarez today declared in Madrid that he does not discard the possibility that General Manuel Antonio Noriega may run in the upcoming 7 May elections.

Suarez, who made a "technical layover" in Spain on his way back to Panama from Libya, told EFE that the government coalition "is negotiating" Noriega's nomination with the Panama Defense Forces, which Noriega commands. Noriega is accused, among other things, of abusing his authority and of having been the "power behind the throne" over the past 4 years.

Suarez, president of the Revolutionary Panamenist Party, said that Noriega—whom he claims is a "personal friend"—is a "nationalist patriot" who is the victim of an "immense disinformation campaign" orchestrated by the U.S. Government and by "bad interventionist Panamanians."

The political and economic crisis experienced in Panama since the middle of last year, when public protests against Noriega began, can only be solved "between Panamanians and in a Panamanian way." Suarez added that he is in favor of holding "free, clean, and democratic elections."

He insisted that U.S. "intervention" in Panama's domestic affairs—stemming from U.S. interest in prolonging its military presence on the isthmus—has extended and intensified the "Panamanian problem."

Regarding the next U.S. President's policy toward Panama, Suarez expressed his hope that George Bush will do away with U.S. persecution of "Panama's nationalist position of dignity."

Suarez, who has a military background, also expressed his intention to bring together the numerous voters supporting deceased opposition leader Arnulfo Arias Madrid for the upcoming elections.

As a former Arias Madrid collaborator in the Authentic Panamenist Party, Suarez feels he is capable of "bringing together all Panamenists" by means of their common nationalist ideology.

PAPO Leader on 'Persecution', Elections

PA1611135688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Nov 88

[Interview with Roberto Arosemena, secretary general of the Peoples Action Party, PAPO, by unidentified reporter at the Public Prosecutor's Office on 14 November—recorded]

[Text] [Arosemena] Upon arriving at Tocumen Airport after attending a political seminar in El Salvador, I was surprised when an immigration official detained me for 2 and ½ hours and later apologized, claiming the computer showed an arrest order and that and no counterorder had been received.

This is a Damocle's sword hanging over the head of political leaders; the regime is using it to keep us frightened. This does not encourage us to participate in the elections. Furthermore, I must point out I am now here at the Public Prosecutor's Office accompanying AMOACSS [Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Institute] doctors who have been charged. We are afraid these charges will again start a persecution such as the one that Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification workers are currently suffering. This hampers the free exercise of democracy.

[Reporter] In your opinion, what other choices are open to the opposition if the elections are not a viable option in the face of the current situation?

[Arosemena] Two years ago, the opposition upheld the banner of national mobilization to demand that the government relinquish power and establish a provisional government advocating democratization. I believe the current regime is not legal or legitimate and does not enjoy enough of the people's trust to call elections.

As for the elections, the major problem facing the opposition is the Panamanian people's feeling of frustration. They will not participate in the elections despite all the propaganda of the state, which is no longer the valid interlocutors for the country's democratization.

Government Considers Reopening Closed Media

PA1811221688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1943 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 18 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that the Panamanian Government is studying the reopening of the media closed in recent months.

"President (Manuel) Solis Palma wants the upcoming electoral campaign to be held without curbs on the press," Nils Castro told ACAN-EFE. Castro is secretary general of international relations of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the chief party within the government coalition.

According to Castro, reopening the media does not mean "a return to the situation that existed before," and would follow an amendment to the press law aimed at "avoiding uncivilized attitudes."

In 1988, three dailies (LA PRENSA, EL SIGLO, and EXTRA), two weeklies (QUIUBO and LA GACETA FINANCIERA), one television channel, and three radio stations (KW Radio Continente, Radio Mundial, and Radio Noticias) were closed. In some cases the closings were carried out without legal grounds, a situation several international news media have condemned.

The government and Solis Palma are ready, according to this source, to "talk" with the opposition and the media owners about possible amendments to the law on the press.

Asked about this possibility, Presidency Spokesman Jose Hernandez just said the situation of the closed media "is a fact that will have to be dealt with at some time."

In a document ACAN-EFE had access to, a government advisory committee suggested the president heed the advice of the Journalists Union of Panama to study "a procedure to reopen the closed media."

However, Winston Robles, editor of LA PRENSA, the largest of the closed newspapers, denied "knowing anything" about the possible negotiations. He voiced his skepticism over any government measure in this respect.

When queried about a likely change to the press law, Robles said the government's intention may be to "take advantage of the media's survival instinct" to "compel them to stop their criticisms."

"It would be absurd to try to hold elections with a minimum of credibility and the media closed," LA PRENSA's editor said.

Most of the closed media had a policy of outright criticisms and insistently called for the dismissal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

Referring to the negotiations to review the press law and reopen the closed media, Nils Castro warned negotiations "will have to be with President Solis. We will not accept an all-or-nothing stance."

Authorities Question LA PRENSA Employees

PA2011141988 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Nov 88 pp A-1, B-5

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Legal authorities yesterday reopened an investigation against the closed newspaper LA PRENSA, which has been accused of attacking the economy and the branches of power. Citations were issued to four journalists, who gave testimony.

Newspaper editors Alfredo Jimenez and Migdalia Fuentes and reporters Flor Quintero and Jose Quintero De Leon were summoned by First Circuit Judge Jose Ramiro Fonseca, who is handling the LA PRENSA case.

Fuentes and Jimenes were questioned by a prosecutor, who asked about publications linked to the opposition National Civic Crusade, which had called for civil disobedience and the nonpayment of taxes and utility bills, actions described as crimes in the penal code.

"In the case of these alleged crimes, we reporters do not share solidarity with the source" Jimenez told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, adding that the questions asked were regarding interviews with General Ruben Dario Paredes, retired; Jose Blandon, former director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification; Christian Democratic Party (PDC) President Ricardo Arias Calderon; and other opposition leaders.

"As reporters, all we do is report the facts," Jimenez said, adding that the attorney general may summon other reporters for statements to continue the investigation against the newspaper, an investigation that has been delayed because of "difficulties within the lawsuit."

Jimenez's attorney, Rogelio Cruz, has requested access to LA PRENSA's facilities to carry out "a legal inspection" that will attest to the truth of the statements published in the newspaper by the crusade.

The newspapers LA PRENSA, EXTRA, EL SIGLO, and radio stations Mundial, KW Continente, and Radio Suave have been closed since 26 February, charged with attacking the economy and the branches of power through published information that, according to authorities, created a climate of upheaval and aggressiveness in the country.

Anti-Noriega Protesters Demand Media Reopenings

PA2111021388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0106 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 20 Nov (AFP)—Approximately 1,500 opponents of the Panamanian Government protested today in Panama City for the first time in 7 months, demanding an "end" to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime and the reopening of seven news media closed since February 1988.

The demonstration was called for by the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and was held without incident and without a police presence.

The participants demanded effective freedom of expression and condemned the jailing of 36 opponents over the past 2 months.

The newspapers LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO, and the radio stations Mundial, KW Continente, Sonora, and Suave remain closed under judicial investigation for supposed attacks against the economy and the "security of the nation."

The protest rally was held at the end of the ninth national PDC congress, which was attended by Luis Herrera Campins, secretary general of the Christian Democratic International and former Venezuelan president.

Similar demonstrations held by the opposition in the middle of this year were harshly repressed by the riot police.

Government Group Urges 'Diversification' of Ties
PA1811185688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2240 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Panama City, 17 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—In a document that seems to be an implicit criticism of the country's foreign minister, the Panamanian Government's Advisory and Consultation Commission says Panama should diversify its international relations.

The document, to which ACAN-EFE had access today, states the need to "diversify, consolidate, and expand diplomatic, trade, and consular relations with all countries."

In an implicit criticism of the policy followed by the current Foreign Ministry and Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter, the commission talks about the need for "a more coherent and uniform policy" and recalls the "international prestige" Panama's foreign policy enjoyed during the General Omar Torrijos era (1968-81).

Until 1987, when the confrontation between Panama and the Reagan administration began, 33 percent of Panamanian trade was with the United States.

In an attempt to achieve greater diversification, the document suggests the need to give priority status to relations with the EEC and CEMA, otherwise known as the communist community's "common market."

The Advisory and Consultation Commission, comprising social and political organizations that support the government, also suggested the need to open an embassy in Ottawa (Canada) to promote trade with that country.

Likewise, the document addressed to the Executive Branch points out the need to "properly instruct" diplomats to get "friendly countries to sign the Panama Canal Neutrality Protocol." The USSR recently signed the protocol.

To reactivate Panama's foreign policy, the commission has suggested "changes" in the Foreign Ministry. The commission also proposed that Panama's foreign policy "concentrate" on "priority areas."

Columnist on 'Chaos' Within PCC Administration
PA1611174188 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Nov 88 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Administrative Chaos" (Part I)"—words in all caps as published]

[Text] Following the meeting of the Panama Canal Commission's [PCC] Board of Directors in Savannah, Georgia, in July 1988—an illegal meeting organized by William Gianelli [chairman of PCC Board of Directors] that was not attended by the Panamanian representatives—I reported that General Dennis McAuliffe "had rebelled and put into circulation among top U.S. PCC executives a confidential report criticizing Gianelli's decisions and announcing his possible resignation. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Those reports were never denied. Instead, there are insistent rumors that Gen McAuliffe will resign as PCC administrator if "Dwarf Napoleon" William Gianelli continues in his post by 31 December 1988. It has been learned that McAuliffe, whose personal and professional pride have been hurt, has had to put up with Gianelli's abuse and a derisive attitude from Rhode—a psychic cretin who feels overprotected by Gianelli—while waiting for a change in the White House that will leave Gianelli without support.

The arbitrary, illegal, and stupid changes introduced by Gianelli in the canal's administration since February of this year have placed Rhode above Gen McAuliffe and have caused a real CHAOS IN THE CANAL'S ADMINISTRATION.

Right now there are two groups within the canal's administrative circles: those who are loyal to McAuliffe and those who recognize Rhode as the PCC executive chief.

[Deputy PCC Administrator] Manfredo, Hull, Plunkett, and Haines are in the first group, which supports McAuliffe. "Zonians" Wood, Burgun, Sealy, Quinn, Morgan, and Waino are in the second group.

This polarization of forces encompasses the entire organization. Panamanian and U.S. employees who are not "Zonians" support McAuliffe; the Zonians, racists, colonialists, anti-Panamanian, and slavers grouped in an illegal organization called "RACS" [not further identified] are against McAuliffe and in favor of Rhode.

One does not have to be a business administrator to know the consequences a situation like this will have in any organization. The PCC Administration is no exception, and the ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS CANNOT BE HIDDEN.

The author of this article has learned that McAuliffe is not willing to be a submissive robot under Gianelli and Rhode. I was also told that Gen McAuliffe is a highly

respected man within very influential groups in Washington and that the announcement of his possible resignation has triggered support for him. I have been assured he will win the battle, and that before 31 December 1988 there will be a sweep of unloyal and insolent Zonians who think of themselves as "little Rambos."

Southern Command's 'Disinformation' Cited
PA1911031888 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Nov 88 p 5

[From "Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Base Disinformation"]

[Text] The United States, in the course of its psychological warfare against Panama, its government, and people, has used disinformation on a large-scale basis. The U.S. State Department strategists, the terrorists disguised as diplomats and posing as U.S. Embassy officials, Gianelli, Rhode, and the Southern Command chiefs all know that disinformation, which leads to political, economic, and diplomatic aggression, feeds psychological warfare.

Through its occupation forces in Panama under the Southern Command, the United States has turned a publication which should be only an information organ for the U.S. Armed Forces into an instrument of slander against the Panamanian Government and people, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and FDP Commander in Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and has used it as a disinformation weapon, abusing the rights Panama granted to the United States in the 1977 treaties—all of this with the purpose of destabilizing the Panamanian Government.

The disinformation organ, called THE TROPIC TIMES, is published three times a week and is widely distributed free of charge in Panama City and Colon.

The 2, 4, and 7 November issues published a document drafted by the U.S. State Department, "A White Paper on Panama," which purports to analyze both the true causes of the Panamanian crisis and U.S. policy in Panama.

The report unashamedly asserts that "the United States has not violated the Torrijos-Carter treaties." A large dose of cynicism is required to tell this big lie, because such violations have been reported in Panama since the treaties became effective. It has been reported that the United States has put Law 96-70 of September 1977 above the treaties and that, on enforcing this law, the United States has violated the treaties in the areas of administration, operation, maintenance, and defense of the Panama Canal. A list of those violations, all of which have been reported by this writer in this column many times, would be too long. However, here are a few of the violations and reports.

I hereby challenge the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Embassy, the Southern Command, Gianelli, and the Zonians to answer these questions:

1. Where is the legal authorization whereby the U.S. State Department can permit U.S. Panama Canal Commission [PCC] employees and their dependents to use the U.S. Embassy's diplomatic pouch for their private correspondence?

2. Where is the legal authorization whereby the Southern Command can allow U.S. officials of the U.S. Embassy, AID, CIA, DEA, the Commission for Studies for a Sea-Level Canal, 20 PCC officials posing as foreign diplomats, and, more recently, all of the Zonians to purchase goods at the U.S. Armed Forces post exchanges?

3. Where in the treaties is there included a provision exempting the PCC offices in Washington and New Orleans from the obligation to hire Panamanian citizens to work at these offices?

Stand by for the answer to these questions in THE TROPIC TIMES or LA REPUBLICA.

General Command Promotes, Transfers Officers
PA2011194688 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1607 GMT 20 Nov 88

[From the weekly Panama Defense Forces program "Everything for the Fatherland"]

[Excerpt] In compliance with Panama Defense Forces [FDP] institutional development plans, the General Command has reported the following promotions and transfers: [passage omitted] Major Manuel Sieiro Murgas of the Cavalry Squadron has been transfered to 10th Military Region chief.
Captain Javier Armando Licona of the Forest Police has been transfered to Cavalry Squadron chief.
Major Edilberto del Cid of the G-5 Deputy Chief's Office of the General Staff to FDP Inspector General Directorate as executive.

Argentina

Alfonsin Leaves for Italy, Spain, FRG

PY2011192088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1725 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Nov (TELAM)—The Tango 2 plane, carrying President Raul Alfonsin and an entourage of Argentine officials and businessmen, left Ezeiza International Airport at 1400 on its way to Italy, Spain, and the FRG.

A little before leaving, answering a newsman's question about whether the FRG is willing to invest in Argentina as Italy and Spain have done, President Alfonsin said that he hopes the FRG will make large investments in the country.

Caputo 'Denies' Talks With British Officials

PY1811175588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1744 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (DYN)—Today Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo emphatically denied having held secret talks with British officials over the Malvinas issue.

Caputo made this statement at the Ezeiza airport where he arrived this afternoon from New York after attending yesterday's vote on a new resolution on the Malvinas at the UN General Assembly over which he presides.

Chances for Caputo-U.K. Talks 'Fading'

PY1811192588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1753 GMT 18 Nov 88

[By Daniel Santoro]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (NA)—The chances that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo may resume the dialogue with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands "without relinquishing the sovereignty issue" faded noticeably after the UN resolution, urging the two countries to begin negotiations "on all future aspects" of the islands, was approved yesterday.

The Foreign Office had undoubtedly suggested the possibility of "instructing" its ambassador to the United Nations, Lord Crispin Tickell, to discuss with Caputo, in his capacity as chairman of the UN General Assembly [UNGA], the subject of the Malvinas, to avoid having to pay the diplomatic cost of yesterday's vote.

A source close to the government stated that although Caputo may formally meet with Tickell before the UN's ordinary meetings end in mid-December, the results of the meetings "will probably be symbolic."

This is why diplomatic circles have stated that at this point "the beam of light" to which Caputo referred when he returned to Argentina for the first time after having been elected UNGA chairman, regarding the resumption of direct contacts interrupted since the war in 1982, "has already faded away."

Moreover, after the 14 May elections the government will have to at least consult the president-elect before making a decision of such importance, which will restrict some negotiating capacity.

In fact, last Tuesday, 15 November, the Malvinas Development Corporation [Corporacion Para el Desarollo de las Malvinas] asked Margaret Thatcher's government to expand the fishing zone unilaterally imposed around the islands from 150 to 200 miles. The situation would worsen even more should the request be granted.

This request is linked to the British pressure for the government to accept the resumption of talks over "the practical issues"—or commercial relations—before leaving power on 10 December 1989.

The British have maintained their intransigent stance despite the fact that the climate of the debate was by no means hostile. In March 1987 Argentina raised the diplomatic tension to its maximum during the UN Security Council special session prompted by the "Fire Focus" military maneuvers.

Interestingly enough, Tickell almost lost his post due to the debate. Since 20 September, Tickell has established a good relationship with Caputo because Great Britain, as well as the other permanent Security Council members, chairs one of the vice presidencies of the UNGA.

Caputo even accepted participation of the Argentine soccer team in a championship in Great Britain in order to "relax" the climate between the two countries.

The British may have downplayed the importance of a possible Caputo-Tickell meeting—the first one after the frustrated 1984 meeting—because they focused their attention on Carlos Menem [Argentine Justicialist Party presidential candidate for upcoming elections] and his promises to "soften" the situation created with London.

The Peronist presidential candidate, who has become much more pragmatic after his tour of Europe, privately advises his interlocutors to spare efforts regarding the Malvinas, at least as long as Thatcher continues in power.

Caputo Expresses 'Satisfaction' With UN Vote

PY1811212788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2006 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (TELAM)—Upon arriving in Argentina this afternoon from the United States, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo expressed his great satisfaction at the results obtained by Argentina in the UN General Assembly vote. He also denied having held secret talks with British officials over the Malvinas issue.

Talking with the press at Ezeiza International Airport, Caputo said he will stay just 3 days in the country to participate in the UCR internal elections. Although the result may be predictable, he said, one must vote; it is very important for UCR members to participate in order to continue the project that in 1983 inspired so many people to vote for Raul Alfonsin.

Concerning yesterday's UN resolution, the foreign minister emphasized the extent of the support received by Argentina, both in quantity and quality. He also emphasized the votes of EEC countries that are partners of the United Kingdom.

Concerning this vote, Caputo added, we received information that the British Government negotiated very hard to the last minute. I have learned of two Group of Eight foreign ministries that were pressured and received concrete threats of economic and financial reprisals if they did not change their vote. If this occurred with countries that are so close to Argentina, it is easy to imagine what happened to countries that are not so close, Caputo said.

Caputo said it is indispensable to continue the struggle over the Malvinas issue at the United Nations every year. He then asked: What would happen if we do not do so? What impression would we give the British Government and the entire world if we stop making this claim at the most natural forum? The impression would be that Argentina is no longer determined to continue this diplomatic struggle, he said.

Concerning reports that he (Caputo) had held secret meetings with British officials, the Argentine foreign minister said: I am very sorry about this type of talk, which I consider unwarranted, and I do not want to discuss this issue. I did not hold any secret meeting, he stresed. The behavior of the UCR government and the Foreign Ministry and our position on the Malvinas do not require any proof; the best proof is in the 5 solid years of history.

Concerning diplomatic methods, Caputo added, no course of action begins without confidential facts and acts; all foreign ministries use confidentiality. However, there was no secret meeting with any ambassador.

Asked about the UCR internal elections, Caputo stressed: We will win. However, no matter how predictable the result may be, one must vote. Afterward, we will continue to struggle for Argentina because the most important tool for the UCR in the upcoming elections will be reason and the UCR's popular calling.

Chileans Detained on Arms Possession Charges

PY2011234788 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) Mendoza—Five Chilean citizens were released here yesterday while another 10 of the same nationality remain under detention on charges of arms possession and illegal association.

Reliable sources revealed that the detainees included at least one police officer by the name of Marcos Brifusa, and a civilian employee of the local Fourth Air Brigade, from where some 20 guns were stolen.

The police are meanwhile on the lookout for Chilean nurse Carmen Brando de Gonzalez, an employee of the local Spanish Hospital for the past two years, in whose home the police found medical equipment which they suspect could have been used to run "a clandestine clinic." Other sources, however, considered the latter the result of "excessive imagination."

The General Labour Confederation (CGT) human rights department yesterday repudiated the alleged "manhandling" of the Chileans.

They considered that the latter evidenced "a clear attack perpetrated by the Chilean dictatorship against (Chilean) exiles in Argentina" as well as the freedom with which "that country's intelligence services operate in our territory."

On the other hand, Mendoza Government Minister Juan Carlos Fajardo denied the manhandling charges. Likewise, Judge Jorge Burad, in charge of the case, said that at the time of their questioning last Wednesday the detainees were "in good health."

IDB Grants Loan for Yacyreta Dam Construction

PY1811134588 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Nov 88 p 15

[Summary] Argentine Public Works and Services Minister Rodolfo Terragno and the executive board of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise yesterday signed an agreement in which the IDB granted $250 million for the civil works of the Yacyreta dam. Another agreement by which the World Bank will also grant $250 million for the dam construction will be signed today.

Jaunarena Observes Military Exercises in South

PY1811203488 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Nov 88 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—Defence Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Armed Forces Chiefs-of-Staff travelled to Chubut yesterday to watch military exercises which have been going on for the past few days and are considered to be the most significant since the Malvinas War.

In statements made from Chubut, Jaunarena said the exercises were not meant to counter a perceived threat from Chile, adding that "Argentines have a peaceful nature and do not foresee any conflict with neighbours. But the country has to be prepared to defend the south even if no threat exists at the moment," he said.

When asked if the government was concerned about a large increase in the population of southern Chile, Jaunarena reiterated that "the security of the country was not in danger."

The exercises, which are taking place in the vicinity of Puerto Deseado, Estancia El Escorial and Pico Truncado, constitute the first time in a year that joint maneuvres involving the Army, Navy and Air Force have been held. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney To Safeguard Essential Services

PY1711152088 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpts] President Sarney has decided to submit to congress provisional measures to control the strike by workers who provide services regarded as essential.

Congress has 30 days to analyze the measures.

[Begin relay] [Reporter] Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Hernique gives further details about this provisional measure.

[Henrique] The provisional measure will be submitted to congress so that the politicians may share in a decision of national interest. This provisional measure is provided for in Article 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to strike, except for strikes affecting essential services—as mentioned in paragraph one of article nine—and refers to measures to be taken to meet essential needs of the community. Paragraph two states that those responsible for abuses are to be punished by law. [end relay] [passage omitted]

President Sarney has ordered that the Armed Forces be granted priority treatment in the supply of fuel.

Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima has said that the Armed Forces will establish a mechanism to safeguard the fuel supply.

Petrobras Reports on Operations During Strike

PY1911024588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Petrobras has reported that 70 percent of its white-collar workers in Rio de Janeiro returned to work today.

At the Petrobras headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, the striking oilworkers made an attempt to convince other employees not to return to work. The striking oilworkers spent all morning in front of the Petrobras offices.

Petrobras President Armando Guedes has said that the supply of petroleum by-products is normal throughout the country. According to Guedes, only the stock of cooking gas is low, and it should last 4 more days.

[Begin Guedes recording] We are very concerned about the stock of liquefied gas. We hope that through a [word indistinct] reaction and after the refineries resume their operations we could have a solution. Otherwise, next week we should have serious problems supplying liquefied gas. [end recording]

The Petrobras president added that 4 of the 11 Brazilian refineries are already operating: the one in Manaus, the one in Betim in Minas Gerais State, and the Paulinha and Capoava refineries in Sao Paulo.

Armando Guedes also reported that the Rio Grande do Norte platforms resumed operations today and that Brazil is now producing 500,000 barrels of petroleum daily—60,000 barrels less than usual.

Names of Newly-Elected Mayors of State Capitals

PY2011025588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Nov 88 p A-6

[Text] These are the newly-elected mayors of state capitals: Rio de Janeiro (RJ)—[Rio de Janeiro State]—Marcello Alencar (PDT) [Democratic Labor Party]
Curitiba (PR) [Parana State]—Jaime Lerner (PDT)
Natal (RN) [Rio Grande do Norte]—Vilma Maia (PDT)
Joao Pessoa (PB) [Paraiba]—Wilson Braga (PDT)
Sao Paulo (SP) [Sao Paulo State]—Luiza Erundina (PT) [Workers Party]
Porto Alegre (RS) [Rio Grande do Sul State]—Olivio Dutra (PT)
Vitoria (ES) [Espirito Santo State]—Vitor Buaiz (PT)
Recife (PE) [Pernambuco State]—Joaquim Cavalcanti (PFL)
Maceio (AL) [Alagoas State]—Guilherme Palmeira (PFL)
Cuiaba (MT) [Mato Grosso State]—Frederico Campos (PFL)
Belem (PA) [Para State]—Sahid Xerfan (PTB) [Brazilian Labor Party]
Campo Grande (MS) [Mato Grosso do Sul State] Ludio Coelho (PTB)
Porto Velho (RO) [Rondonia Territory]—Francisco Erse (PTB)
Manaus (AM) [Amazonas State]—Arthur Virgilio Neto (PSB) [Brazilian Socialist Party]
Aracaju (SE) [Sergipe State]—Wellington Paixao (PSB)
Macapa (AP) [Amapa Territory]—Joao Capiberbe (PSB)
Salvador (BA) [Bahia State]—Fernando Jose (PMDB)
Teresina (PI) [Piaui State]—Heraclito Fortes (PMDB)
Florianopolis (SC) [Santa Catarina State]—Espiridiao Amm (PDS) [Social Democratic Party]
Rio Branco (AC) [Acre State]—Jorge Kalume (PDS)
Belo Horizonte (MG) [Minas Gerais State]—Pimenta da Veiga (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] These are the leading candidates in capitals without definite results:
Goiania (GO) [Goiania State]—Nion Albernaz (PMDB) and Pedro Wilson (PT)
Sao Luis (MA) [Maranhao State]—Jackson Lago (PDT) and Carlos Guterrez (PMDB)

Fortaleza (CE) [Ceara State]—Ciro Gones [no party given] and Edson Silva (PDT)
Boa Vista (RR) [Roraima State] Barac Berto (PFL) and Ottomar Pinto (PMDB)

Mayors-Elect Celebrate in Seven State Capitals

PY1911174988 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] The vote count has ended in seven state capitals and the mayors-elect are celebrating their victories. Espiridiao Amin of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] has been elected in Florianopolis. Jaime Lerner of the Democratic Labor Party [PDT] was elected in Curitiba.

The victory of the PT's Olivio Dutra has been celebrated in Porto Alegre with much beer and music.

Ludio Coelho of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] has won in Campo Grande, while Wellington Paixao has won in Aracaju. Paixao is a member of the PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party].

Jorge Calume of the PDS has won in Rio Branco, Acre State; while Nion Albernaz of the PMDB has been elected in Goiania.

Sao Paulo Mayor-Elect Expresses Personal Views

PY1811025088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] Here are some examples of Sao Paulo Mayor-elect Luiza Erundina's way of thinking: Ideology—"I am a Marxist and I believe the PT must become a revolutionary party of the masses."
Political Model—"I support a workers democracy, the socialization of the means of production, and broad freedom to form organizations."
Workers—"The working class has not reached a level of consciousness and organization high enough to enable them to enjoy a workers democracy."
Marxism—"An important contribution to the history of mankind in its pursuit of peace."
Revolution—"I do not support this method of transforming society, but I do believe it is a legitimate method to be used by a society that has tried all other methods, such as Nicaragua."
Self-definition—"I am truthful, authentic, and radical when I have to fight injustice and lack of respect."
Radicalism—"What I deem radical is the injustice and oppression being experienced by the people."
God—"There is no sense in believing in this or that god. What really counts is a person's values, and his or her capacity of living in peace with the others."
Church—"I have no ties with the Church as an organization."
and Occupation—"The right to occupy land is granted by the need to survive, and it questions the social function of a property."
Strike—"Occupying an administrative position or being part of the opposition, the PT defends the right to strike. The PT does not feel it has the right to repress strikes."
Abortion—"I believe it should no longer be considered a crime because we cannot charge a person who has an abortion with committing a crime."
Drugs—"The law must be Draconian with the drug traffickers, but should not consider the addicts criminals."
Janio [current Sao Paulo mayor]—"He was born to be a fascist clown."
Silvio Santos [Sao Paulo television channel owner and anchorman, who is reportedly going to run in the presidential elections]—"He contributes to making the people indifferent to national reality."
Terms in Office—"The terms in office of Legislative and Executive Branch officials are periods for the accumulation of force that make the people create alternate institutions of power."
Citizens—"All Sao Paulo dwellers have a right to know when, how, and why the political decisions for the administration of the city are made."
Identity—"My origins and my identity are the result of my life as a labor union militant."

Chile

Pinochet Appoints New DINACLOS Director

PY1811182088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] DINACLOS has issued the following communique:

DINACLOS communicates to the public the following:

1. His Excellency, President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, has accepted the resignation of DINACLOS Director Jorge Eugenin Ulloa.

2. The president appointed journalist Miguel Angel Romero, who was the national mining enterprise public relations officer, to replace Ulloa as DINACLOS director.

FPMR Announces New Stage of Armed Struggle

PY1911025688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 18 Nov (EFE)—The armed Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) today reiterated that since the 5 October plebiscite, before which it had observed a truce, the FPMR has begun a new stage of the armed struggle against the Chilean military regime. The FPMR described this armed struggle as the "National Patriotic War" [Guerra Patriotica Nacional] (GPN).

In a press release, the FPMR stated that in the last few years, "the front has gained prestige and it has the necessary maturity" to propose "the National Patriotic War."

The FPMR, which is regarded by the Chilean military regime as the armed branch of the illegal PCCh, has criticized the opposition political parties because it

believes that "the opposition is apparently unwilling to struggle courageously and decisively for the freedom of the people who made their decision on 5 October."

The FPMR reported that it occupied four Chilean rural townships for propaganda purposes, stressing that on 23 October it attacked the Los Quenes police station, 240 km southeast of Santiago, where it held several carabineros.

The police have reported that five people were arrested and that the alleged FPMR leader Raul Pellegrin and his assistant Cecilia Magni drowned while trying to escape.

Aylwin Says State Should 'Control' Press

PY1911141888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leadership has received with deep concern PDC President Patricio Aylwin's views regarding the role of the press and journalism, and the negative reaction to his statements.

During a meeting with opposition and leftist journalists and foreign correspondent, Patricio Aylwin talked about freedom of the press. At the end of his speech he said that a future democratic government will have to create a state organ to supervise and control the exercise of the right to an opinion and the right to report issues in the communications media. [passage omitted]

Police Find Arms Hidden Near Los Quenes

PY1911190888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Carabineros Third Central Zone Command reported finding arms near Los Quenes, supposedly hidden by FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] terrorists.

The report says police found four M-16 rifles near Los Quenes, where a police station was attacked a few weeks ago. During the incident, Carabinero Juvenal Vargas was killed.

The arms were wrapped in plastic bags and hidden in a box under a rock. The box was marked: Fiscal Matter, Station Los Quenes.

The arms were found 2 km south of the Bella Vista Hills in the Puente Negro Region. The cache consists of 4 M-16 rifles with punched serial numbers, 1 empty SIG rifle cartridge, 104 7.62-caliber NATO-type cartridges, 271 5.56-caliber shells, 7 No 8 mechanical detonators, 1 No 6 mechanical detonator, 3 ammunition chargers for 5.56-caliber ammunition, 2 plastic bags, and a green shirt.

Carabineros said all the information was placed at the disposal of ad hoc Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva, who is investigating the terrorist attack on President Pinochet and other terrorist attacks.

Police continue to search the area and have already arrested five FPMR terrorists. Torres will reconstruct the incident next week.

Bomb in Santiago Causes Damage, No Injuries

PY2111005088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2113 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Santiago, 20 Nov (EFE)—According to police sources, there were four bomb attacks in Santiago last night. The attacks caused some damage, but no injuries.

The explosions occurred from 2100 to 2200 (0000 to 0100 GMT) last night and damaged lamp posts and telephone service wires on several streets of eastern Santiago.

According to the police report, the bombs caused some damage, knocked out some lights, and spread fear among people who live nearby.

Terrorists Place Bomb Near Police Precinct

PY1911142188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Valparaiso—At 2355 last night terrorists placed a bomb outside the Chile Gendarmery Building located on Admiral Mont and (Bagder) Streets.

The bomb was placed on the outside molding of a street window. The bomb damaged the section of the building where the office of Control of Inmates is located. The explosion caused damage to the window and broke windows of nearby homes.

Police Arrest 100 Striking Workers During Rally

PY1811180488 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Today Carabineros arrested some 100 workers from the Manufacturas Tumar polyester factory. The workers were marching on Vicuna Mackenna Avenue toward downtown Santiago where they planned to talk with the labor minister.

The 448 plant employees agreed to stage the march after 2 weeks of strikes at the plant without results. Workers' leader Angel Parraguirri explains:

[Begin recording] We were marching on Vicuna Mackenna when police came out of a building near the LA TERCERA DE LA HORA offices and arrested nearly 100 workers, including the president of the polyester factory union and a CUT [Central Labor Union] secretary. [end recording]

The Tumar factory strike began on 7 November. Workers organized a soup kitchen in the polyester plant during this time.

When police tried to stop the march at the corner of Vicuna Mackenna and Nuble with a water cannon, the workers moved to the sidewalks and continued marching. Police then arrested nearly 100 workers.

New Political Group Created; Leaders Named

PY1811131388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Summary] A new political group formed by socialists, radicals, Christian leftists, and independent leftists has just been created.

The Broad Party of the Socialist Left [Partido Amplio de Izquierda Socialista—PAIS] is headed by Luis Maira, who has been appointed president; and Francisco Rivas, Manuel Riesco, and Humberto Martones, all of whom have been appointed vice presidents.

Maira explained that the PAIS will struggle against political discrimination and seek the derogation of Article No eight of the Constitution.

Individuals Attack Lyceum; Students 'Repel'

PY1811123488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Some 40 hooded individuals have tried to interrupt classes at the Amunategui Lyceum in Santiago. They caused disorder and damage inside the Lyceum building.

The students, who were caught by surprise, formed groups and repelled the agitators.

Colombia

Guerrillas, Politicians Hold Peace Meeting

PA2111044988 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Report by Pilar Lozano; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Here at this Tolima mountain site [Liberal Party Senator] Alberto Santofimio Botero, Social Conservative Party Leader Maximiliano Neira, and UP [Patriotic Union] representative Dario Romero arrived this morning with their peace proposals. FARC Commanders from the 21st Front and the M-19's Jorge Eliecer Gaitan Detachment awaited them here. At this table, both sides promised to do their best to bring peace to the department.

[Santofimio] "We are proving that it is possible to make headway through dialogue between democratic party leaders and guerrilla commanders. I believe we are giving a lesson to a country that is bleeding to death and that is showing the effects of violence, terrorism, and death more and more every day. We all want peace here—those who bear arms and those of us who have taken the road of democracy."

[M-19 Commander Carlos Augusto Erazo] "The efforts we are making in this dialogue process, which began here in Tolima, show our willingness, as a coordinating body, to make an effort for peace."

A peaceful solution from Tolima for a country that is bleeding to death. That is how this regional peace process has been characterized. Despite the fact that this rapprochement between political and guerrilla forces in Tolima began more than 1 month ago, definite proposals were heard for the first time today.

[Social Conservative Party Leader Maximiliano Neira] "We wish to propose the election of municipal mayors in Tolima Department who promise to address social issues."

[FARC Commander Roberto (not further identified)] "We have our proposals. Paramilitary groups must be stabilized. They must be stopped."

The next step will be a meeting of a coexistence commission on 7 December. The guerrilla leaders asked Santofimio Botero to serve as intermediary to convince the military forces to participate.

Guerrillas Release 17 Policemen Held Since 5 Oct

PA1911215488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2042 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 19 Nov (DPA)—It was reported officially in Bogota that 17 policemen who were kidnapped 5 October by the FARC were released today in northeastern Colombia.

Following secret talks, the policemen were released today to officials of the National Rehabilitation Plan (PNR) in a rural region of Santander Department, from where they were taken to the port city of Barrancabermeja for the required medical checkup.

The policemen were kidnapped by the guerrillas during an attack in the northern department of San Pablo, Bolivar Department, on a day when the rebels unleashed a fierce offensive in different parts of the country.

Apparently all the policemen are in good health, but up to now they have not been allowed to meet with newsmen. [passage omitted]

Police Say Guerrillas Infiltrate Parties, Unions

PA1911005688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1753 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 18 Nov (EFE)—The Colombian national police have accused the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board of infiltrating the Patriotic Union (UP), the United Workers Confederation (CUT), and other political, labor union, peasant, and student organizations.

The accusation appeared in the latest annual edition of the magazine CRIMINALIDAD, which is published by the national police, and which adds that "each guerrilla group already has a legal facade," and other political, labor union, and civic organizations have been "directly or indirectly infiltrated by the guerrillas." [passage omitted]

According to CRIMINALIDAD, the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board has infiltrated the To Fight group, the Popular Front [Frente Popular], Middle Magdalena Broad Front [Frente Amplio del Magdalena Medio], Civic Movements' National Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Nacional de Movimientos Civicos], the Committee for Student Unity [Comite de Union Estudiantil], Inter-Union Committee [Comite Intersindical], National Association of Rural Land Users, Colombian Teachers' Federation, CUT, and other organizations.

According to the police report, the guerrilla movement's purpose is to "broaden its political space and following," unite the dispersed movements, and create one large political party that would be called "People's Alternative Movement for a New Colombia." [passage omitted].

Floods Throughout Country Causing Much Damage
PA1811194588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpt] La Negra Creek, which runs near Utica, Cundinamarca Department, overflowed last night, causing a landslide that destroyed more than 100 homes. Reports from the area say 4 persons are dead, 4 others are missing, and 20 are injured. It is believed that more than 1,000 persons have been affected by the floods, and approximately 500 million pesos in damage have been reported.

Likewise, several areas of the country have been declared in a state of emergency because of the strong rains that are hitting Colombia. The Magdalena River has also overflowed and flooded eastern Santander Department towns like Puerto Wilches and Barrancabermeja. [passage omitted]

Break-Up of FARC Financial Cell in Cordoba
PA1911043188 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Nov 88 p 2-A

[Text] A former detective of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] and a former national police detective led the FARC financial cell that was dismantled in Cordoba Department. Two [as published] of its members were arrested, and weapons, fragmentation grenades, ammunition, printing equipment, and seals were seized.

DAS Director in Cordoba Emilio Vence Zabaleta stated that the arrest of the rebels, five men and one woman, took place in Monteria.

The arrested were identified as former national police officer Jose Eliseo Mosquera Gonzalez, from Cartago, Valle; former DAS detective Euduro Peralta, from Restrepo, Meta; Luis Fernando Arias Guitierrez, from Medellin; and Jose Joaquin, Angel Antonio, and Veril del Carmen Jimenez Portillo, from Monteria, Cordoba.

During the raids, the DAS detectives also seized various types of fragmentation grenades, printing plates, seals of the Republic of Colombia and FARC - People's Liberation Army, cameras, and other materials that are being investigated.

In addition, a van used by the rebels with the license plate no. PS-9865 was impounded.

Vence Zabaleta explained that the arrest of the rebels came after months of constant work day and night.

The FARC financial cell had been operating in Monteria and in Cordoba Department in general. They extracted huge funds from cattlemen and businessmen.

At the time of the arrests, the alleged guerrillas were trying to get 25 million pesos from a well-known person in the region through extortion by FARC.

The identity of the victim was not disclosed at first so as not not to hamper the investigation.

THE Cordoba DAS chief said the six FARC guerrilas will be sent to a judge for the corresponding investigation.

Attack Against Governor's Helicopter Fails
PA2011164788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1550 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Bogota, 20 Nov (DPA)—Colombian authorities continued today to investigate the identities of those responsible for the attack against the helicopter in which Antioquia Department Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur was traveling yesterday.

The helicopter was attacked by machinegun fire while the official was traveling with a government commission in charge of inspecting the damage caused by heavy rains in that part of the country in the last few days.

According to the pilot, the incident took place when the aircraft was flying at a low altitude. When shots were first heard, the crew confused them with other noises.

The helicopter immediately headed toward a soccer field and made an emergency landing, where it was determined that no bullets had hit the aircraft.

Investigations have not yet provided any information on those responsible for the attack, although it has not been ruled out that it was staged by National Liberation Army guerrillas.

New Liberalism Movement Rejoins Liberal Party

PA2111121888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Report by Mary Villalobos]

[Excerpt] The New Liberalism ended its life today as a Liberal Party dissident movement. In a resolution read by its director Luis Carlos Galan, New Liberalism decided to rejoin the Liberal Party and cancel its legal entity status—a decision Galan took very calmly although it brought tears to some participants:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...to show maturity, we are rejoining the Liberal Party to inspire in it a new epoch in Colombian politics. [applause] [end recording]

For Galan, today's act meant taking responsibility before the country, but to some of his followers, rejoining the Liberal Party is saying goodbye to 10 years of struggle. [passage omitted]

Peru

Garcia Talks on Plans To Improve Economy

PY2111003888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Statement by President Alan Garcia; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [In progress] ... for the next 6 months, and how much we want to reduce subsidies on basic foodstuffs. This reduction will be gradual and in accordance with a schedule to be complied with in the next 6 months.

The people will recover their confidence in the government if the Economy Ministry releases a plan with deadlines and concrete goals. [passage omitted]

During our first 2 years in office, we stimulated consumption by keeping prices very low. Rice, for example, was sold for one-third of its real value, so that people could eat more rice. At that time, the government paid two- thirds of the price of rice. Because 700,000 tons of rice were consumed in the country, a large debt was created for the government.

We stimulated consumption and the country grew, but consumption created a large debt due to the subsidies and we had no more dollars to continue growing. We therefore had to stop growing, and that was very difficult. [passage omitted]

We must complement the economic measures adopted; otherwise the effort made in September will have been lost. The complementary efforts, however, must have a smaller social cost, and I can say that it is already costing much less. [passage omitted]

We have many economic problems, and we must fight them with a 6-month plan of goals and solutions. One of these problems is the low price being paid to exporters for their products. Currently, exporters are no longer willing to sell their products abroad and bring dollars to Peru because the money they get for these dollars is too little. Consequently, the dollar rate must be modified—but not by too much, or the price of foodstuffs and medicines purchased abroad will become too high. [passage omitted]

The second objective of the plan is to preserve the purchasing power of the salaries of those who already have a job. [passage omitted]

The third great objective of the anti-inflationary plan is to avoid policies that require lifting all subsidies, because such a policy would harm the great majority of the Peruvian people—those who have no jobs and depend on the low price of the subsidized food to feed themselves. [passage omitted]

Yesterday an economist said: We must lift the subsidies and convince the government, the businessmen, and the workers to sign a pact to supress inflation, preserve the salaries' purchasing power, and stimulate production. This would be easy if there were only those three groups of people in Peru. The majority of the Peruvian people, however, have no jobs, receive no salaries, and do not work for the state. All these people are indirectly helped by subsidized products. [passage omitted]

The only solution, therefore, is to lift the subsidies gradually. [passage omitted]

The government, the businessmen, and the workers must get together to seek an agreement based on economic solidarity. We must decide how to increase exports by increasing the price of the dollar. We must protect the people against inflation by preserving the purchasing power of workers' salaries, but without eliminating the subsidies that so help the great majority of the destitute in our society. [passage omitted] We were able to grow in the first 2 years of our administration thanks to the deficit we have created. The government spent more because it was creating more jobs, charging less interest in the banks, and assigning large quantities of money to the growing agricultural sector. These were the reasons why the state created a deficit. [passage omitted]

I agree that we must find solutions to our problems, but it must be done through a plan of gradual goals. Let us avoid miraculous solutions that are expected to yield results in 15 days. Let us find concrete goals for a 6-month plan that may help the great majority of the people, who cannot be overlooked. [passage omitted]

We have told the international economists that we have to face the problem of widespread violence. The results of the investigation made by the committee headed by Senator Bernales are very clear: We have not only political violence sponsored by many fighting fronts; we

also have social violence, deliquency, and, worst of all, a great number of marginal groups who do not take part in the economic life of the country. [passage omitted] I ask you: How can we fail to protect those groups? That is why we cannot accept crude economic plans that call for lifting subsidies and that overlook the majority of the Peruvian people. [passage omited]

Mayor, Daugher Shot To Death by Shining Path

PY1911141588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 18 Nov (EFE)—The Peruvian police reported today that the mayor of Tocctos, Mariano Quispe, and his daughter were shot to death in Ayacucho Province by presumed members of the Maoist Shining Path group.

Quispe, who is regional leader of the ruling APRA party, was killed last night—a day after he fled from Tocctos after receiving death threats from Shining Path members, the police added. Tocctos is located 70 km northeast of Ayacucho.

A few hours before Quispe's murder, which took place in his own house, a right-wing commando called "Rodrigo Franco" hurled dynamite sticks into the house of Ayacucho provincial Mayor Fermin Azparrent, a member of the United Left (IU) communist front.

Eyewitnesses have reported that Griselda Lagos, who lives on the upper floor of Azparrent's house, was injured by the explosion. The property damage is reportedly considerable.

Ayacucho is located 576 km southeast of Lima, and this is where the Shining Path settled 8 years ago when it began its armed struggle which has killed more than 12,000 people and has caused property damage estimated at $10 million.

MRTA Attacks Mining Association Offices

PY1811023388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] MRTA terrorists have attacked the offices of the National Association of Mining and Petroleum [Sociedad Nacional de Mineria y Petroleo] organization. They dynamited the offices with two bombs. The terrorists sprayed the first floor with gasoline. This happened after the terrorists overpowered three private security guards who were guarding the offices.

Bomb squad personnel, Peruvian civil guardsmen, Peruvian republican guardsmen, as well as other members of the National Association of Industries and Mining [Sociedad Nacional de Industrias y Mineria] interested in the condition of the attacked office, visited the site a few minutes after the attack was perpetrated by the terrorists.

70 Miners Detained

PY1811025488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Lima Prefect Jorge Bardelli has disclosed that 70 miners have been placed at the disposal of the Prosecutor's Office for the vandalistic acts carried out yesterday at the Labor Ministry building.

[Begin recording] [Bardelli] Yesterday, we saw something shameful. Some miners threw stones, others broke glasses using clubs, and others attacked police.

I think the police forces are there to safeguard public order. However, they are not there to be insulted, verbally abused, or attacked by workers.

The workers complain about repression. They keep shouting no to repression. What are the workers doing then? Isn't it repression? Is it a game or a joke? No.

We must act with much authority now. I am going to hold talks now to see if those who were involved in those acts can be placed at the disposal of the Prosecutor's Office.

[Reporter] How many people have been detained?

[Bardelli] Yesterday 70 miners were detained. [end recording]

MIR Group Attacks AFP's Lima Office

PY1811005888 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] From Lima, Peru, it has been reported that today, armed groups of the Revolutionary Leftist Movement, MIR, tried to take over the offices of some international press agencies in the Peruvian capital.

[Words indistinct], moreover an armed group of the same organization was able to enter the offices of the French agency AFP, where the group was able to hand out a MIR proclamation.

Indians Raid Shell Oil Camps in Camisea Region

PY1811230588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1634 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Lima, 18 Nov (EFE)—Hundreds of members of Piro, Campa, and Machiguenga tribes raided two camps of the British-Dutch Royal Shell Dutch Oil Company, destroying and stealing their property.

The local press today reported that the attack occurred on the night of 15 November, when some 250 people attacked the camps located in an area where Shell has discovered important natural gas deposits.

The newspaper LA REPUBLICA reported that the assailants stole radio and television equipment, doors, windows, 25,000 gallons of oil, and 2,000 gallons of gasoline.

One of the camps is in the jungle area of Cuzco Department, 1,000 km southwest of Lima, and the other is in neighboring Ucayali Department. Both camps are located in a region called Camisea.

The exact reason for the attack is unknown. Some weeks ago, the Peruvian tribes that live in the jungle area issued a communique stating that gas exploitation in Camisea was endangering their way of life.

The communique said that Shell's activities in the region had affected its environment and had constituted an attack on the culture of the Indians.

The leaders of the Piro, Campa, and Machiguenga tribes, who had been evangelized by Catholic and Protestant missionaries, demanded active participation in the bidding for gas exploitation.

Engineer Victor Ochoa, chairman of the Cuzco Development Corporation, has confirmed the attack and added that the heavy equipment, the main facilities, and the wells were not affected.

Ochoa said that the Indians raided only the administrative offices. The equipment that Shell has in Camisea is worth $125 million.

The newspaper EXPRESO today reported that some 25 heavily armed terrorists attacked one of the Shell camps.

The peasants in charge of the Shell camps fled. The alleged terrorists looted and burned the camp before loading generators and motors into trucks and taking them away.

EXPRESO says that the terrorists bombed the machinery that they were unable to take away.

Subversive Commando Attacks Ayacucho Mayor

PY1811135688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0411 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 17 Nov (EFE)— In this city a woman was wounded today during a terrorist attack on the house of the Ayacucho mayor, and the armed group that recently made death threats against Peruvian opposition reporters has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The same armed group, the Rodrigo Franco Command, also claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on the house of the municipal public relations chief of Ayacucho.

The explosions at the houses of Mayor Fermin Azparrent and municipal official Jose Escobar, in downtown Ayacucho early on the morning of 16 November, destroyed the fronts of the houses and broke windows in the nearby houses.

Police sources have indicated that a woman who lives on the second floor of Azparrent's house was injured by flying glass.

The Rodrigo Franco Command claimed responsibility for the attacks in a hand-written note that was left at the window of Escobar's house. The note says that it is "a warning" to Escobar for cooperating with the mayor in sponsoring "Shining Path strikes."

The Rodrigo Franco Command which is a "death squad" type armed group appeared on 28 July 1988 when it murdered the defense lawyer of Osman Morote, who is the "number two" man in the Shining Path organization. On that occasion the command announced that it was created to combat terrorism.

Last weekend they made death threats against two reporters, Cesar Hildebrandt and Roxana Canedo, who are critical of the government of President Alan Garcia, and also of Senator Javier Silva, chief of the party Solidarity and Democracy, SODE, who had asked for the president's resignation.

The mayor told the press that the attacks are aimed at "threatening" the people of Ayacucho by trying to prevent them from supporting the 48-hour strike scheduled for next week by the "People's Assembly" to protect "the government's abandonment of Ayacucho."

Fishing Accords With USSR, Poland, Japan

PY1711161588 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria has said that Peruvians will not go short on fish and that important fishing agreements will be signed in the next few days with Poland, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

[Begin Leon recording] I want to disclose some information of interest to the media. We have ended talks with Japan, Poland, and the Soviet Union designed to reach agreements.

The Polish fisheries minister will arrive in Peru on 21 November to sign an agreement that will greatly benefit Peru.

We are expecting on 4 December the arrival of the Soviet fisheries minister with whom we will also sign a fishing development agreement, which will not only refer to fishing. We will receive a large quantity of fish so that we can triple our current fish supply. This agreement will enable us to offer the Peruvian people not only the

quantity of fish they need, but also the amount of protein. We are also expecting the arrival of a Japanese delegation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bomb Explodes at Soviet Aeroflot Office

PY1911142088 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Four people were seriously injured by a bomb explosion at the offices of the Soviet Aeroflot Airline. According to initial police reports, the explosive device was placed in a garbage can at the office.

The reasons for the attack are unknown and it is not known whether the objective of the attack was Aeroflot or the bank of the Andes branch that operates in the same building.

Venezuela

Lusinchi Dismisses Possibility of 'Rash Coups'

PA1811183388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2036 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Caracas, 17 Nov (EFE) —Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi said today, "The time for so-called rash coups [golpe frio] in Venezuela is over," thus dismissing the possibility of a coup against his country's democratic institutions.

During an event covered by local newspaper reporters at Libertador Airbase in Maracay, 100 km west of Caracas, Lusinchi alluded to rumors of an alleged attempt to stage a coup on 26 October, when an Army major deployed several tanks in the direction of La Vineta Presidential Palace and the Foreign Ministry building.

The rumors enjoyed more credibility because Lusinchi was in Montevideo at the time attending a Group of Eight meeting. While he was out of the country, Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi was acting president. Jose Soler Zambrano, the major who deployed the tanks, remains detained under charges that he "deployed troops without orders from a higher authority."

Lusinchi pointed out that the time for "rash coups" in Venezuela is over because the people are now more mature and able to express their political views and "because neither the Armed Forces nor the people would let anybody alter the country's course."

The president emphasized that the Armed Forces "deserve to be respected and trusted" and that they should not be used for political purposes "because they do not side with any political party."

He added that the Venezuelan military "practices democracy and respects human rights. Man is exalted in the barracks."

Lusinchi said officers are told at military schools that rank does not presuppose right and that this principle will be increasingly supported and respected to the extent that subordinates respect their superiors.

He said: "This is why there is no place here for rumors or speculation regarding completely isolated events that are not representative of the Armed Forces' usual behavior."

VTV, Televisora Eliminate Electoral News

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[Statement by Marta Colominas, president of Venezolana de Television Canal 8—recorded]

[Text] Marta Colominas, president of Venezolana de Television [VTV] has addressed the public to convey an important political message over the state channel:

Our viewers are more aware than anyone about VTV's efforts to be objective in this electoral process. Approximately 8 months ago, we eliminated political opinion programs to avoid being accused of partiality. We exclusively maintained our duty to inform as part of our condition as media.

However, this was not enough. Constant and unjust criticism leveled over the past few days against the state channels forces us to make even more painful and extreme decisions.

Beginning tonight, VTV Canal 8 and Televisora Nacional Canal 5 will leave out of their newscasts all news and opinion pertaining to the electoral process except for institutional news provided by the Supreme Electoral Council's presidency and official organizations in charge of successfully completing the electoral process.

You, as viewers who have watched and will continue to watch us and our newsmen cover news of social, economic, scientific, governmental, and sports interest—that is, news pertaining to the work of people and institutions who inside and outside the electoral process contribute to making our country great—have a challenge at hand.

The president of VTV, who is a newswoman with many years of service as a professor at the country's media schools; the management of information services; and all professionals working at VTV are tired of being the targets of undeserved accusations.

We reaffirm that our analyses show, based on the flow of news, that the behavior of our newscasts is similar to those in other media. However, our status as a state channel makes us easy prey at a historical moment when electoral passions prevent objective analyses of reality.

That is why today we made a decision that we do not like in our capacity as newsmen, as defenders of freedom of speech, or as believers of the right to information. However, this is the only way to demonstrate that we are not involved in any kind of electoral favoritism and that the result of the 4 December elections will not be altered just because VTV stops transmitting information about the process.

In the end, this will also show we are capable of making great sacrifices to contribute to the establishment of a harmonious atmosphere that is so greatly needed at this time to strengthen the democratic system.